







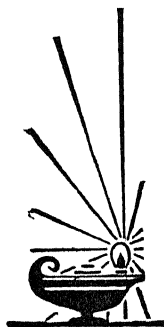


# THE POCKET UNIVERSITY



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## POEMS II



VOLUME X

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## FOLLOW YOUR SAINT

**F**OLLOW your saint, follow with accents  
sweet!

Haste you, sad notes, fall at her flying feet!  
There, wrapt in cloud of sorrow, pity move,  
And tell the ravisher of my soul I perish for her  
love:

But if she scorns my never-ceasing pain,  
Then burst with sighing in her sight, and ne'er  
return again!

All that I sung still to her praise did tend;  
Still she was first, still she my songs did end;  
Yet she my love and music both doth fly,  
The music that her echo is and beauty's sym-  
pathy:

Then let my notes pursue her scornful flight!  
It shall suffice that they were breathed and died  
for her delight.

THOMAS CAMPION.

## LOVE'S PHILOSOPHY

**T**HE Fountains mingle with the River  
And the Rivers with the Ocean,  
The winds of Heaven mix for ever  
With a sweet emotion;



Nothing in the world is single;  
All things by a law divine  
In one spirit meet and mingle.  
Why not I with thine?—

See the mountains kiss high Heaven  
And the waves clasp one another;  
No sister-flower would be forgiven  
If it disdained its brother,  
And the sunlight clasps the earth  
And the moonbeams kiss the sea:  
What are all these kissings worth  
If thou kiss not me?

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY.

### HIS LADY'S CRUELTY

**W**ITH how sad steps, O moon, thou climb'st  
the skies!  
How silently, and with how wan a face!  
What! may it be that even in heavenly place  
That busy archer his sharp arrows tries?  
Sure, if that long-with-love-acquainted eyes  
Can judge of love, thou feel'st a lover's case:  
I read it in thy looks; thy languish'd grace  
To me, that feel the like, thy state describes.  
Then, even of fellowship, O Moon, tell me,  
Is constant love deem'd there but want of wit?  
Are beauties there as proud as here they be?  
Do they above love to be loved, and yet



Those lovers scorn whom that love doth possess?

Do they call "virtue" there—ungratefulness?

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.

## MARY MORISON

O MARY, at thy window be!  
It is the wish'd, the trysted hour.  
Those smiles and glances let me see,  
That make the miser's treasure poor:  
How blythely wad I bide the stour,  
A weary slave frae sun to sun,  
Could I the rich reward secure,  
The lovely Mary Morison!

Yestreen, when to the trembling string  
The dance gaed thro' the lighted ha'.  
To thee my fancy took its wing,  
I sat, but neither heard nor saw:  
Tho' this was fair, and that was braw  
And you the toast of a' the town,  
I sighed, and said among them a',  
"Ye are na Mary Morison."

O Mary, canst thou wreck his peace,  
Wha for thy sake wad gladly die?  
Or canst thou break that heart of his,  
Whase only faut is loving thee?



If love for love thou wilt na gie,  
 At least be pity to me shown;  
 A thought ungentle canna be  
 The thought o' Mary Morison.

ROBERT BURNS

TAKE, O TAKE THOSE LIPS AWAY

**T**AKE, O take those lips away,  
 That so sweetly were forsworn;  
 And those eyes, the break of day,  
 Lights that do mislead the morn!  
 But my kisses bring again,  
                                   Bring again;  
 Seals of love, but seal'd in vain,  
                                   Seal'd in vain!  
 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

FORGET NOT YET

**F**ORGET not yet the tried intent  
 Of such a troth as I have meant;  
 My great travail so gladly spent,  
 Forget not yet!

Forget not yet when first began  
 The weary life ye know, since whan  
 The suit, the service, none tell can;  
 Forget not yet!



Forget not yet the great assays,  
The cruel wrong, the scornful ways,  
The painful patience in delays,  
Forget not yet!

Forget not! O, forget not this!—  
How long ago hath been, and is,  
The mind that never meant amiss—  
Forget not yet!

Forget not then thine own approved,  
The which so long hath thee so loved,  
Whose steadfast faith yet never moved:  
Forget not this!

SIR THOMAS WYATT.

## THE RESOLVE

**T**ELL me not of a face that's fair,  
Nor lip and cheek that's red,  
Nor of the tresses of her hair,  
Nor curls in order laid,  
Nor of a rare seraphic voice  
That like an angel sings;  
Though if I were to take my choice  
I would have all these things:  
But if that thou wilt have me love,  
And it must be a she,  
The only argument can move  
Is that she will love me.



The glories of your ladies be  
But metaphors of things,  
And but resemble what we see  
Each common object brings.  
Roses out-red their lips and cheeks,  
Lilies their whiteness stain;  
What fool is he that shadows seeks  
And may the substance gain?  
Then if thou'lt have me love a lass,  
Let it be one that's kind:  
Else I'm a servant to the glass  
That's with Canary lined.

ALEXANDER BROME.

#### THE CONSTANT LOVER

**O**UT upon it, I have loved  
Three whole days together!  
And am like to love three more,  
If it prove fair weather.

Time shall moult away his wings  
Ere he shall discover  
In the whole wide world again  
Such a constant lover.

But the spite on 't is, no praise  
Is due at all to me:  
Love with me had made no stays,  
Had it any been but she.



### THE LOVER'S RESOLUTION

Had it any been but she,  
And that very face,  
There had been at least ere this  
A dozen dozen in her place.  
SIR JOHN SUCKLING.

### THE LOVER'S RESOLUTION

**S**HALL I, wasting in despair,  
Die because a woman's fair?  
Or make pale my cheeks with care  
'Cause another's rosy are?  
Be she fairer than the day,  
Or the flow'ry meads in May,  
If she think not well of me,  
What care I how fair she be?

Shall my silly heart be pined  
'Cause I see a woman kind?  
Or a well disposèd nature  
Joinèd with a lovely feature?  
Be she meeker, kinder, than  
Turtle-dove or pelican,  
If she be not so to me,  
What care I how kind she be?

Shall a woman's virtues move  
Me to perish for her love?  
Or her well-deservings known  
Make me quite forget my own?



Be she with that goodness blest  
Which may merit name of Best,  
If she be not such to me,  
What care I how good she be?

'Cause her fortune seems too high,  
Shall I play the fool and die?  
She that bears a noble mind,  
If not outward helps she find,  
Thinks what with them he would do  
That without them dares her woo;  
And unless that mind I see,  
What care I how great she be?

Great, or good, or kind, or fair,  
I will ne'er the more despair;  
If she love me, this believe,  
I will die ere she shall grieve;  
If she slight me when I woo,  
I can scorn and let her go;  
For if she be not for me,  
What care I for whom she be?

GEORGE WITHER.

I NE'ER COULD ANY LUSTRE SEE

**I** NE'ER could any lustre see  
In eyes that would not look on me;  
I ne'er saw nectar on a lip,  
But where my own did hope to sip.



Has the maid who seeks my heart  
 Cheeks of rose, untouched by art?  
 I will own the colour true  
 When yielding blushes aid their hue.

Is her hand so soft and pure?  
 I must press it, to be sure;  
 Nor can I be certain then,  
 Till it, grateful, press again.  
 Must I, with attentive eye,  
 Watch her heaving bosom sigh?  
 I will do so, when I see  
 That heaving bosom sigh for me.

RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN.

## WHY SO PALE AND WAN?

**W**HY so pale and wan, fond lover?  
 Prithee, why so pale?  
 Will, when looking well can't move her,  
 Looking ill prevail?  
 Prithee, why so pale?

Why so dull and mute, young sinner?  
 Prithee, why so mute?  
 Will, when speaking well can't win her,  
 Saying nothing do 't?  
 Prithee, why so mute?



Quit, quit for shame! This will not move;  
This cannot take her.  
If of herself she will not love,  
Nothing can make her:  
The devil take her!

SIR JOHN SUCKLING.

TO A FLIRT \*

WHAT slender youth, bedewed with perfumes, embraces thee amid many a rose, O Pyrrha, in the pleasant grotto? For whom dost thy tie up thy golden hair in simple elegance? Alas! How often shall he lament changed faith and gods, and marvel in surprise at waters rough with darkening gales, who now enjoys thee, fondly thinks thee all golden, who hopes that thou wilt ever be free of passion for another, ever lovely,—ignorant he of the treacherous breeze. Ah, wretched they to whom thou, untried, dost now appear so dazzling! As for me, the temple wall with its votive table shows I have hung up my dripping garments to the god who is master of the sea.

Translated from the Latin  
of HORACE by C. E.  
BENNETT.

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TO —

TO —

WHEN I loved you, I can't but allow  
I had many an exquisite minute;  
But the scorn that I feel for you now  
Hath even more luxury in it.

Thus, whether we're on or we're off,  
Some witchery seems to await you;  
To love you was pleasant enough,  
And, oh! 'tis delicious to hate you!  
THOMAS MOORE.

PITY ME NOT\*

PITY me not because the light of day  
At close of day no longer walks the sky;  
Pity me not for beauties passed away  
From field and thicket as the year goes by;  
Pity me not the waning of the moon,  
Nor that the ebbing tide goes out to sea,  
Nor that a man's desire is hushed so soon,  
And you no longer look with love on me.

This have I known always: love is no more  
Than the wide blossom which the wind assails;  
Than the great tide that treads the shifting shore,  
Strewing fresh wreckage gathered in the gales.

\* From *The Harp Weaver and other Poems* published by Harper and Brothers, copyright 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, by Edna St. Vincent Millay.



Pity me that the heart is slow to learn  
What the swift mind beholds at every turn.  
EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY.

TO HIS INCONSTANT MISTRESS

WHEN thou, poor Excommunicate  
From all the joys of Love, shalt see  
The full reward and glorious fate  
Which my strong faith shall purchase me,  
Then curse thine own inconstancy!

A fairer hand than thine shall cure  
That heart which thy false oaths did wound;  
And to my soul a soul more pure  
Than thine shall by Love's hand be bound,  
And both with equal glory crown'd.

Then shalt thou weep, entreat, complain  
To Love, as I did once to thee;  
When all thy tears shall be as vain  
As mine were then: for thou shalt be  
Damn'd for thy false apostasy.

THOMAS CAREW.

SONG

GO and catch a falling star,  
Get with child a mandrake root,  
Tell me where all past years are,



Or who cleft the Devil's foot;  
Teach me to hear mermaids singing,  
Or to keep off envy's stinging,  
    And find  
    What wind  
Serves to advance an honest mind.

If thou be'st born to strange sights,  
    Things invisible to see,  
Ride ten thousand days and nights  
    Till Age snow white hairs on thee;  
Thou, when thou return'st, wilt tell me  
All strange wonders that befell thee,  
    And swear  
    No where  
Lives a woman true and fair.

If thou find'st one, let me know;  
    Such a pilgrimage were sweet.  
Yet do not; I would not go,  
    Though at next door we might meet.  
Though she were true when you met her,  
And last till you write your letter,  
    Yet she  
    Will be  
False, ere I come, to two or three.

JOHN DONNE.



## THE WILL

**B**EFORE I sigh my last gasp, let me breathe,  
Great Love, some legacies: here I be-  
queathe

Mine eyes to Argus, if mine eyes can see;  
If they be blind, then, Love, I give them thee;  
My tongue to Fame; to ambassadors mine ears  
    To women or the sea, my tears;  
    Thou, Love, hast taught me heretofore  
By making me serve her who had twenty more  
That I should give to none, but such as had too  
    much before.

My constancy I to the planets give;  
My truth to them who at the court do live;  
Mine ingenuity and openness,  
To Jesuits; to buffoons my pensiveness;  
My silence to any, who abroad have been;  
    My money to a Capuchin:  
    Thou, Love, taught'st me, by appointing me  
To love there, where no love received can be,  
Only to give to such as have an incapacity.

My faith I give to Roman Catholics;  
All my good works unto the schismatics  
Of Amsterdam; my best civility  
And courtship to an University;  
My modesty I give to shoulders bare;  
    My patience let gamesters share:  
    Thou, Love, taught'st me, by making me



Love her that holds my love disparity,  
Only to give to those that count my gifts in-  
dignity.

I give my reputation to those  
Which were my friends; mine industry to foes;  
To schoolmen I bequeathe my doubtfulness;  
My sickness to physicians, or excess;  
To Nature all that I in rhyme have writ;

And to my company my wit:

Thou, Love, by making me adore  
Her, who begot this love in me before,  
Taught'st me to make, as though I gave, when  
I do but restore.

To him, for whom the passing-bell next tolls,  
I give my physic-books; my written rolls  
Of moral counsels I to Bedlam give;  
My brazen medals unto them which live  
In want of bread; to them which pass among

All foreigners, mine English tongue:

Thou, Love, by making me love one  
Who thinks her friendship a fit portion  
For younger lovers, dost my gifts thus dispro-  
portion.

Therefore I'll give no more, but I'll undo  
The world by dying; because Love dies too.  
Then all your beauties will be no more worth  
Than gold in mines, where none doth draw it  
forth;



And all your graces no more use shall have,  
Than a sun-dial in a grave:  
Thou, Love, taught'st me, by making me  
Love her, who doth neglect both me and thee,  
To invent and practise this one way to annihilate  
all three.

JOHN DONNE.

VOBISCUM EST IOPE

WHEN thou must home to shades of under-  
ground,  
And there arrived, a new admirèd guest,  
The beauteous spirits do engirt thee round,  
White Iope, blithe Helen, and the rest,  
To hear the stories of they finished love  
From that smooth tongue whose music hell can  
move;

Then wilt thou speak of banqueting delights,  
Of masques and revels which sweet youth did  
make,  
Of tourneys and great challenges of knights,  
And all these triumphs for they beauty's sake:  
When thou hast told these honours done to thee,  
Then tell, O tell, how thou didst murder me!  
THOMAS CAMPION.



## THE SIEGE

**T**IS now, since I sat down before  
That foolish fort, a heart,  
(Time strangely spent!) a year, and more;  
And still I did my part.

Made my approaches, from her hand  
Unto her lips did rise;  
And did already understand  
The language of her eyes.

Proceeding on with no less art,  
My tongue was engineer;  
I thought to undermine the heart  
By whispering in the ear.

When this did nothing, I brought down  
Great canon-oaths, and shot  
A thousand thousand to the town,  
And still it yielded not.

I then resolved to starve the place,  
By cutting off all kisses,  
Praising and gazing on her face,  
And all such little blisses.

To draw her out, and from her strength,  
I drew all batteries in:  
And brought myself to lie at length,  
As if no siege had been.



When I had done what man could do,  
And thought the place my own,  
The enemy lay quiet too,  
And smiled at all was done.

I sent to know from whence, and where,  
These hopes, and this relief?  
A spy informed, Honour was there,  
And did command in chief.

March, march (quoth I), the word straight give,  
Let's lose no time, but leave her:  
That giant upon air will live,  
And hold it out for ever.

To such a place our camp remove  
As will no siege abide;  
I hate a fool that starves her love,  
Only to feed her pride.

SIR JOHN SUCKLING.

#### TO HIS LUTE

**M**Y Lute, awake! Perform the last  
Labour that thou and I shall waste,  
And end that I have now begun;  
For when this song is sung and past,  
My lute, be still, for I have done.



As to be heard where ear is none,  
As lead to grave in marble stone,  
My song may pierce her heart as soon:  
Should we then sing, or sigh, or moan?  
No, no, my lute! for I have done.

The rocks do not so cruelly  
Repulse the waves continually,  
As she my suit and affection:  
So that I am past remedy:  
Whereby my lute and I have done.

Proud of the spoil that thou hast got  
Of simple hearts thorough Love's shot,  
By whom, unkind, thou hast them won;  
Think not he hath his bow forgot,  
Although my lute and I have done.

Vengeance shall fall on thy disdain,  
That mak'st but game of earnest pain:  
Think not alone under the sun  
Unquit to cause thy lover's plain,  
Although my lute and I have done.

May chance thee lie withered and old  
The winter nights that are so cold,  
Plaining in vain unto the moon:  
Thy wishes then dare not be told:  
Care then who list! for I have done.



And then may chance thee to repent  
The time that thou hast lost and spent  
To cause thy lover's sigh and swoon:  
Then shalt thou know beauty but lent,  
And wish and want as I have done.

Now cease, my lute! This is the last  
Labour that thou and I shall waste,  
And ended is that we begun:  
Now is this song both sung and past—  
My lute, be still, for I have done.  
SIR THOMAS WYATT.

"SINCE THERE'S NO HELP, COME LET US  
KISS AND PART,—"

**S**INCE there's no help, come let us kiss and  
part,—

Nay I have done, you get no more of me;  
And I am glad, yea glad with all my heart,  
That thus so cleanly I myself can free;  
Shake hands for ever, cancel all our vows,  
And when we meet at any time again,  
Be it not seen in either of our brows  
That we one jot of former love retain.  
Now as the last gasp of love's latest breath,  
When his pulse failing, passion speechless lies;  
When faith is kneeling by his bed of death,  
And innocence is closing up his eyes,



—Now if thou would'st, when all have given  
him over,  
From death to life thou might'st him yet, re-  
cover!

MICHAEL DRAYTON.

## VOICES AT THE WINDOW

*WHO is it that, this dark night,  
Underneath my window plaineth?*

It is one who from thy sight  
Being, ah, exiled, disdaineth  
Every other vulgar light.

*Why, alas, and are you he?*

*Be not yet those fancies changèd?*  
Dear, when you find change in me,  
Though from me you be estrangèd,  
Let my change to ruin be.

*Well, in absence this will die:*

*Leave to see, and leave to wonder.*  
Absence sure will help, if I  
Can learn how myself to sunder  
From what in my heart doth lie.

*But time will these thoughts, remove;*

*Time doth work what no man knoweth.*  
Time doth as the subject prove:



With time still the affection groweth  
In the faithful turtle-dove.

*What if you new beauties see?*

*Will not they stir new affection?*

I will think they pictures be  
(Image-like, of saints' perfection)  
Poorly counterfeiting thee.

*But your reason's purest light*

*Bids you leave such minds to nourish.*

Dear, do reason no such spite!

Never doth thy beauty flourish  
More than in my reason's sight.

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.

#### LOVE NOT ME FOR COMELY GRACE

**L**OVE not me for comely grace,  
For my pleasing eye or face,  
Nor for any outward part,  
No, nor for a constant heart:  
For these may fail or turn to ill,  
So thou and I shall sever:  
Keep, therefore, a true woman's eye,  
And love me still but know not why—  
So hast thou the same reason still  
To doat upon me ever!

UNKNOWN, from John Wilbye's  
*Second Set of Madrigals*,  
1609.



## THE UNFADING BEAUTY

**H**E that loves a rosy cheek,  
Or a coral lip admires,  
Or from star-like eyes doth seek  
Fuel to maintain his fires:  
As old Time makes these decay,  
So his flames must waste away.

But a smooth and steadfast mind,  
Gentle thoughts and calm desires,  
Hearts with equal love combined,  
Kindle never-dying fires.  
Where these are not, I despise  
Lovely cheeks or lips or eyes.

THOMAS CAREW.

“IF THOU MUST LOVE ME, LET IT BE FOR  
NAUGHT”

**I** thou must love me, let it be for naught  
Except for love's sake only. Do not say,  
“I love her for her smile—her look—her way  
Of speaking gently,—for a trick of thought  
That falls in well with mine, and certes brought  
A sense of pleasant ease on such a day”—  
For these things in themselves, Belovèd, may  
Be changed, or change for thee—and love, so  
wrought,  
May be unwrought so. Neither love me for  
Thine own dear pity's wiping my cheeks dry:



A creature might forget to weep, who bore  
Thy comfort long, and lose thy love thereby!  
But love me for love's sake, that evermore  
Thou mayst love on, through love's eternity.  
ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

"BELIEVE ME, IF ALL THOSE ENDEARING  
YOUNG CHARMS"

**B**ELIEVE me, if all those endearing young  
charms,  
Which I gaze on so fondly to-day,  
Were to change by to-morrow, and fleet in my  
arms,  
Like fairy-gifts fading away,  
Thou wouldst still be adored, as this moment  
thou art,  
Let thy loveliness fade as it will,  
And around the dear ruin each wish of my heart  
Would entwine itself verdantly still.

It is not while beauty and youth are thine own,  
And thy cheeks unprofaned by a tear,  
That the fervour and faith of a soul may be  
known,  
To which time will but make thee more dear!  
No, the heart that has truly loved never forgets,  
But as truly loves on to the close,  
As the sunflower turns to her god when he sets  
The same look which she turned when he rose!  
THOMAS MOORE.



## MY SWEETEST LESBIA

**M**Y sweetest Lesbia, let us live and love,  
And though the sager sort our deeds re-  
prove,

Let us not weigh them; heaven's great lamps  
do dive

Into their west, and straight again revive;  
But, soon as once is set our little light,  
Then must we sleep one ever-during night.

If all would lead their lives in love like me,  
Then bloody swords and armour should not be,  
No drum nor trumpet peaceful sleeps should  
move,

Unless alarm came from the camp of love.  
But fools do live, and waste their little light,  
And seek with pain their ever-during night.

When timely death my life and fortune ends,  
Let not my hearse be vexed with mourning  
friends;

But let all lovers rich in triumph come,  
And with sweet pastimes grace my happy tomb;  
And, Lesbia, close up thou my little light,  
And crown with love my ever-during night.

THOMAS CAMPION.

"IF IT BE TRUE THAT ANY BEAUTEOUS  
THING"

**I**F IT be true that any beauteous thing  
Raises the pure and just desire of man



From earth to God, the eternal fount of all,  
Such I believe my love; for as in her  
So fair, in whom I all besides forget,  
I view the gentle work of her Creator,  
I have no care for any other thing,  
Whilst thus I love. Nor is it marvellous,  
Since the effect is not of my own power,  
If the soul doth, by nature tempted forth,  
Enamoured through the eyes,  
Repose upon the eyes which it resembleth,  
And through them riseth to the Primal Love,  
As to its end, and honours in admiring;  
For who adores the Maker needs must love h  
work.

Translated from the Ital-  
ian of MICHAEL AN-  
GELO by J. E. TAYLOR.

“THE MIGHT OF ONE FAIR FACE”

**T**HE might of one fair face sublimes my love,  
For it hath weaned my heart from low de-  
sires;  
Nor death I heed, nor purgatorial fires.  
Thy beauty, antepast of joys above,  
Instructs me in the bliss that saints approve;  
For O, how good, how beautiful, must be  
The God that made so good a thing as thee,  
So fair an image of the heavenly Dove!



Forgive me if I cannot turn away  
From those sweet eyes that are my earthly heaven,  
For they are guiding stars, benignly given  
To tempt my footsteps to the upward way;  
And if I dwell too fondly in thy sight,  
I live and love in God's peculiar light.

Translated from the Italian  
of MICHAEL ANGELO  
by J. E. TAYLOR.

## A SUPERScription

**L**OOK in my face; my name is Might-have-been;

I am also called No-more, Too-late, Farewell;  
Unto thine ear I hold the dead-sea shell  
Cast up thy Life's foam-fretted feet between;  
Unto thine eyes the glass where that is seen  
Which had Life's form and Love's, but by my  
spell

Is now a shaken shadow intolerable,  
Of ultimate things unuttered the frail screen.

Mark me, how still I am! But should there dart  
One moment through thy soul the soft surprise  
Of that winged Peace which lulls the breath  
of sighs,—

Then shalt thou see me smile, and turn apart  
Thy visage to mine ambush at thy heart  
Sleepless with cold commemorative eyes.

DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI.



## LOVE IS ENOUGH

**L**OVE is enough: though the World be  
a-waning,  
And the woods have no voice but the voice of  
complaining,  
Though the sky be too dark for dim eyes to dis-  
cover  
The gold-cups and daisies fair blooming there-  
under,  
Though the hills be held shadows, and the sea  
a dark wonder,  
And this day draw a veil over all deeds pass'd  
over,  
Yet their hands shall not tremble, their feet shall  
not falter;  
The void shall not weary, the fear shall not alter  
These lips and these eyes of the loved and the  
lover.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

## SONNETS

## XVIII

**S**HALL I compare thee to a Summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And Summer's lease hath all too short a date:



Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair sometimes declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course un-  
trimm'd:

But thy eternal Summer shall not fade  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;  
Nor shall Death brag thou wanderest in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou growest:

So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this and this gives life to thee.

## XXIX

When, in disgrace with Fortune and men's eyes,  
I all alone beweep my outcast state,  
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,  
And look upon myself, and curse my fate,  
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,  
Featured like him, like him with friends possess'd,  
Desiring this man's art and that man's scope,  
With what I most enjoy contented least;  
Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising—  
Haply I think on thee: and then my state,  
Like to the Lark at break of day arising  
From sullen earth, sings hymns at Heaven's gate;  
For thy sweet love rememb'red such wealth  
brings  
That then I scorn to change my state with  
kings.



## XXX

When to the sessions of sweet silent thought  
I summon up remembrance of things past,  
I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought,  
And with old woes new wail my dear time's  
waste:

Then can I drown an eye, unused to flow,  
For precious friends hid in death's dateless night,  
And weep afresh love's long-since-cancell'd woe,  
And moan th' expense of many a vanish'd sight:  
Then can I grieve at grievances foregone,  
And heavily from woe to woe tell o'er  
The sad account of fore-bemoanèd moan,  
Which I new pay as if not paid before.

But if the while I think on thee, dear friend,  
All losses are restored and sorrows end.

## LXXI

No longer mourn for me when I am dead  
Than you shall hear the surly sullen bell  
Give warning to the world that I am fled  
From this vile world, with vilest worms to dwell;  
Nay, if you read this line, remember not  
The hand that writ it; for I love you so  
That I in your sweet thoughts would be forgot  
If thinking on me then should make you woe.  
O if, I say, you look upon this verse



When I perhaps compounded am with clay,  
Do not so much as my poor name rehearse,  
But let your love even with my life decay;  
    Lest the wise world should look into your  
        moan,  
And mock you with me after I am gone.

## LXXIII

That time of year thou may'st in me behold  
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang  
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold—  
Bare ruin'd choirs where late the sweet birds sang.  
In me thou see'st the twilight of such day  
As after sunset fadeth in the west,  
Which by and by black night doth take away,  
Death's second self, that seals up all in rest.  
In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire  
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,  
As the death-bed whereon it must expire,  
Consumed with that which it was nourish'd by.  
    This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy love  
        more strong,  
    To love that well which thou must leave ere  
        long.

## CVI

When in the chronicle of wasted time  
I see descriptions of the fairest wights,



And beauty making beautiful old rhyme,  
In praise of ladies dead, and lovely knights;  
Then, in the blazon of sweet beauty's best  
Of hand, of foot, of lip, of eye, of brow,  
I see their antique pen would have expressed  
Even such a beauty as you master now.  
So all their praises are but prophecies  
Of this our time, all you prefiguring;  
And, for they looked but with divining eyes,  
They had not skill enough your worth to sing;  
For we, which now behold these present days,  
Have eyes to wonder, but lack tongues to  
praise.

## CXVI

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:  
O no! it is an ever-fixèd mark  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth 's unknown, although his height  
be taken.  
Love 's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and  
checks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.



If this be error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

WHEN YOU ARE OLD \*

**W**HEN you are old and grey and full of  
sleep,  
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,  
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look  
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;

How many loved your moments of glad grace,  
And loved your beauty with love false or true;  
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,  
And loved the sorrows of your changing face.

And bending down beside the glowing bars  
Murmur, a little sadly, how love fled  
And paced upon the mountains overhead  
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS.

AE FOND KISS

**A**E fond kiss, and then we sever;  
Ae farewell, and then for ever!

\* Reprinted by permission of the publishers, The Macmillan Company, from *Selected Poems*, by W. B. Yeats.



Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge thee,  
Warring sighs and groans I'll wage thee.

Who shall say that Fortune grieves him  
While the star of hope she leaves him?  
Me, nae cheerfu' twinkle lights me,  
Dark despair around benights me.

I'll ne'er blame my partial fancy;  
Naething could resist my Nancy;  
But to see her was to love her,  
Love but her, and love for ever.

Had we never loved sae kindly,  
Had we never loved sae blindly,  
Never met—or never parted,  
We had ne'er been broken-hearted.

Fare thee weel, thou first and fairest!  
Fare thee weel, thou best and dearest!  
Thine be ilka joy and treasure,  
Peace, enjoyment, love, and pleasure!

Ae fond kiss, and then we sever!  
Ae fareweel, alas, for ever!  
Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge thee,  
Warring sighs and groans I'll wage thee.

ROBERT BURNS.



TO LUCASTA, GOING BEYOND THE SEAS

**I**F TO be absent were to be  
     Away from thee;  
     Or that when I am gone  
     You or I were alone;  
 Then, my Lucasta, might I crave  
 Pity from blustering wind or swallowing wave.

But I'll not sigh one blast or gale  
     To swell my sail,  
     Or pay a tear to 'suage  
     The foaming blue god's rage;  
 For whether he will let me pass  
 Or no, I'm still as happy as I was.

Though seas and land betwixt us both.  
     Our faith and troth,  
     Like separated souls,  
     All time and space controls:  
 Above the highest sphere we meet,  
 Unseen, unknown; and greet as Angels greet.

So then we do anticipate  
     Our after-fate,  
     And are alive i' the skies,  
     If thus our lips and eyes  
 Can speak like spirits unconfined  
 In Heaven, their earthly bodies left behind.  
                             RICHARD LOVELACE.



## HIGHLAND MARY

**Y**E BANKS and braes and streams around  
The castle o' Montgomery,  
Green be your woods, and fair your flowers,  
Your waters never drumlie!  
There simmer first unfauld her robes,  
And there the langest tarry;  
For there I took the last fareweel  
O' my sweet Highland Mary.

How sweetly bloom'd the gay green birk,  
How rich the hawthorn's blossom,  
As underneath their fragrant shade  
I clasp'd her to my bosom!  
The golden hours on angel wings  
Flew o'er me and my dearie;  
For dear to me as light and life  
Was my sweet Highland Mary.

Wi' monie a vow and lock'd embrace  
Our parting was fu' tender;  
And, pledging aft to meet again,  
We tore oursels asunder;  
But oh! fell Death's untimely frost,  
That nipt my flower sae early!  
Now green's the sod, and cauld's the clay  
That wraps my Highland Mary!

O pale, pale now, those rosy lips  
I aft hae kiss'd sae fondly!



And closed for aye the sparkling glance  
That dwelt on me sae kindly;  
And mouldering now in silent dust  
That heart that lo'ed me dearly!  
But still within my bosom's core  
Shall live my Highland Mary.

ROBERT BURNS.

## OF A' THE AIRTS

OF a' the airts the wind can blaw,  
I dearly like the west,  
For there the bonnie lassie lives,  
The lassie I lo'e best:  
There wild woods grow, and rivers row,  
And monie a hill between;  
But day and night my fancy's flight  
Is ever wi' my Jean.

I see her in the dewy flowers,  
I see her sweet and fair:  
I hear her in the tunefu' birds,  
I hear her charm the air:  
There's not a bonnie flower that springs  
By fountain, shaw, or green;  
There's not a bonnie bird that sings,  
But minds me o' my Jean.

ROBERT BURNS.



## ON A GIRDLE

**T**HAT which her slender waist confined  
Shall now my joyful temples bind;  
No monarch but would give his crown,  
His arms might do what this has done.

It was my Heaven's extremest sphere,  
The pale which held that lovely deer:  
My joy, my grief, my hope, my love,  
Did all within this circle move.

A narrow compass! and yet there  
Dwelt all that's good, and all that's fair!  
Give me but what this ribband bound,  
Take all the rest the sun goes round!

EDMUND WALLER.

## THE CANE-BOTTOMED CHAIR

**I**N tattered old slippers that toast at the bars,  
And a ragged old jacket perfumed with cigars,  
Away from the world and its toils and its cares,  
I've a snug little kingdom up four pair of stairs.

To mount to this realm is a toil, to be sure,  
But the fire there is bright and the air rather  
pure;  
And the view I behold on a sunshiny day  
Is grand through the chimney-pots over the way.



The snug little chamber is crammed in all nooks,  
With worthless old knickknacks and silly old  
books,  
And foolish old odds and foolish old ends,  
Cracked bargains from brokers, cheap keepsakes  
from friends.

Old armour, prints, pictures, pipes, china (all  
cracked),  
Old rickety tables, and chairs broken-backed;  
A twopenny treasury, wondrous to see;  
What matter? 'tis pleasant to you, friend, and  
me.

No better divan need the Sultan require,  
Than the creaking old sofa that basks by the fire;  
And 'tis wonderful, surely, what music you get  
From the rickety, ramshackle, wheezy spinet.

That praying-rug came from a Turcoman's camp;  
By Tiber once twinkled that brazen old lamp;  
A Mameluke fierce yonder dagger has drawn:  
'Tis a murderous knife to toast muffins upon.

Long, long through the hours, and the night, and  
the chimes,  
Here we talk of old books, and old friends, and  
old times;  
As we sit in a fog made of rich Latakia  
This chamber is pleasant to you, friend, and me.



Saint Fanny, my patroness sweet I declare,  
The queen of my heart and my cane-bottomed  
chair.

When the candles burn low, and the company's  
gone,

In the silence of night as I sit here alone—  
I sit here alone, but we yet are a pair—  
My Fanny I see in my cane-bottomed chair.

She comes from the past and revisits my room;  
She looks as she then did, all beauty and bloom;  
So smiling and tender, so fresh and so fair,  
And yonder she sits in my cane-bottomed chair.

WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY.

## AUF WIEDERSEHEN

### *Summer*

**T**HE little gate was reached at last,  
Half hid in lilacs down the lane;  
She pushed it wide, and, as she past,  
A wistful look she backward cast,  
And said,—“*Auf wiedersehen!*”

With hand on latch, a vision white  
Lingered reluctant, and again  
Half doubting if she did aright,  
Soft as the dews that fell that night,  
She said,—“*Auf wiedersehen!*”



The lamp's clear gleam flits up the stair;  
 I linger in delicious pain;  
 Ah, in that chamber, whose rich air  
 To breathe in thought I scarcely dare,  
 Thinks she,—"*Auf wiedersehen!*"

'Tis thirteen years; once more I press  
 The turf that silences the lane;  
 I hear the rustle of her dress,  
 I smell the lilacs, and—ah, yes,  
 I hear "*Auf wiedersehen!*"

Sweet piece of bashful maiden art!  
 The English words had seemed too fain,  
 But these—they drew us heart to heart,  
 Yet held us tenderly apart;  
 She said, "*Auf wiedersehen!*"

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

"MUSIC, WHEN SOFT VOICES DIE"

**M**USIC, when soft voices die,  
 Vibrates in the memory;  
 Odours, when sweet violets sicken,  
 Live within the sense they quicken.

Rose leaves, when the rose is dead,  
 Are heap'd for the belovèd bed;  
 And so thy thoughts, when thou art gone,  
 Love itself shall slumber on.

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY.



## ROSE AYLMER

AH, what avails the sceptred race!  
Ah, what the form divine!  
What every virtue, every grace!  
Rose Aylmer, all were thine.

Rose Aylmer, whom these wakeful eyes  
May weep, but never see,  
A night of memories and sighs  
I consecrate to thee.

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR.

## SUMMER DAWN

PRAY but one prayer for me 'twixt thy closed  
lips,  
Think but one thought of me up in the stars.  
The summer night waneth, the morning light  
slips,  
Faint and grey 'twixt the leaves of the aspen,  
betwixt the cloud-bars,  
That are patiently waiting there for the dawn:  
Patient and colourless, though Heaven's gold  
Waits to float through them along with the sun.  
Far out in the meadows, above the young corn,  
The heavy elms wait, and restless and cold  
The uneasy wind rises; the roses are dun;  
Through the long twilight they pray for the  
dawn,



Round the lone house in the midst of the corn.  
Speak but one word to me over the corn,  
Over the tender, bow'd locks of the corn.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

### LONGING

COME to me in my dreams, and then  
By day I shall be well again!  
For then the night will more than pay  
The hopeless longing of the day.

Come, as thou cam'st a thousand times,  
A messenger from radiant climes,  
And smile on thy new world, and be  
As kind to others as to me!

Or, as thou never cam'st in sooth,  
Come now, and let me dream in truth;  
And part my hair, and kiss my brow,  
And say: *My love! why sufferest thou?*

Come to me in my dreams, and then  
By day I shall be well again!  
For then the night will more than pay  
The hopeless longing of the day.

MATTHEW ARNOLD.



THE RIVER-MERCHANT'S WIFE: A LETTER \*

WHILE my hair was still cut straight across  
my forehead

I played about the front gate, pulling flowers.

You came by on bamboo stilts, playing horse,

You walked about my seat, playing with blue  
plums.

And we went on living in the village of Chokan:

Two small people, without dislike or suspicion.

At fourteen I married My Lord you.

I never laughed, being bashful.

Lowering my head, I looked at the wall.

Called to, a thousand times, I never looked back.

At fifteen I stopped scowling,

I desired my dust to be mingled with yours

For ever and for ever and for ever.

Why should I climb the look out?

At sixteen you departed,

You went into far Ku-to-yen, by the river of  
swirling eddies,

And you have been gone five months.

The monkeys make sorrowful noise overhead.

You dragged your feet when you went out.

\* Reprinted, by permission of the publishers, Boni and Liveright, from *Personæ* by Ezra Pound.



By the gate now, the moss is grown, the different  
mosses,  
Too deep to clear them away!

The leaves fall early this autumn, in wind.  
The paired butterflies are already yellow with  
August

Over the grass is the West garden;  
They hurt me. I grow older.  
If you are coming down through the narrows of  
the river Kiang,  
Please let me know beforehand,  
And I will come to meet you  
As far as Cho-fu-Sa.

Translated from the Chinese of  
of RIHAKU by EZRA POUND.

#### MEETING AT NIGHT

**T**HE grey sea and the long black land;  
And the yellow half-moon large and low;  
And the startled little waves that leap  
In fiery ringlets from their sleep,  
As I gain the cove with pushing prow,  
And quench its speed i' the slushy sand.

Then a mile of warm sea-scented beach;  
Three fields to cross till a farm appears;  
A tap at the pane, the quick sharp scratch



And blue spurt of a lighted match,  
 And a voice less loud, through its joys and fears,  
 Then the two hearts beating each to each!

ROBERT BROWNING.

# LENVOY DE CHAUCER A BUKTON

The counseil of Chaucer touching  
 Mariage, which was sent to Bukton.

**M**Y maister Bukton, whan of Criste our kinge  
 Was axed, what is trouthe or sothfastnesse,  
 He nat a word answerde to that axinge,  
 As who saith: "no man is al trewe," I guesse.  
 And therefor, thogh I highte to expresse  
 The sorwe and wo that is in mariage,  
 I dar not wryte of hit no wikkednesse,  
 Lest I my-self falle eft in swich dotage.

I wol nat seyn, how that hit is the cheyne  
 Of Sathanas, on which he gnaweth ever,  
 But I dar syn, were he out of his peyne,  
 As by his wille, he wolde be bounde never.  
 But thilke doted fool that eft hath lever  
 Y-cheyned be than out of prisoun crepe,  
 God lete him never fro his wo dissever,  
 Ne no man him bewayle, though he wepe.

But yit, lest thou do worse, tak a wyf;  
 Bet is to wedde, than brenne in worse wyse.  
 But thou shalt have sorwe on thy flesh, thy lyf,



And been thy wyves thral, as seyn these wyse;  
 And if that holy writ may nat suffyse,  
 Experience shal thee teche, so may happe,  
 That thee were lever to be take in Fryse  
 Then eft to falle of wedding in the trappe.

This litel writ, proverbes, or figure,  
 I sende you, tak kepe of hit, I rede:  
 Unwys is he that can no wele endure.  
 If thou be siker, put thee nat in drede.  
 The Wyf of Bathe I pray you that ye rede  
 Of this matere that we have on honde.  
 God graunte you your lyf frely to lede  
 In freedom; for ful hard is to be bonde.  
GEOFFREY CHAUCER.

## AGAINST MARRIAGE

*To His Mistress*

**Y**ES, all the world must sure agree,  
 He who's secured of having thee,  
 Will be entirely blessed;  
 But t'were in me too great a wrong,  
 To make one who has been so long  
 My queen, my slave at last.

Nor ought those things to be confined,  
 That were for public good designed:  
 Could we, in foolish pride,  
 Make the sun always with us stay,



'Twould burn our corn and grass away,  
To starve the world beside.

Let not the thoughts of parting fright  
Two souls which passion does unite;  
For while our love does last,  
Neither will strive to go away;  
And why the devil should we stay,  
When once that love is past?

WILLIAM WALSH.

## A RING PRESENTED TO JULIA

**J**ULIA, I bring  
To thee this ring,  
Made for thy finger fit;  
To show by this,  
That our love is,  
Or should be, like to it.

Close though it be,  
The joint is free:  
So when Love's yoke is on,  
It must not gall,  
Or fret at all  
With hard oppression.

But it must play  
Still either way,  
And be, too, such a yoke,



As not too wide,  
 To over-slide;  
 Or be so strait to choke.

So we, who bear  
 This beam, must rear  
 Ourselves to such a height  
 As that the stay  
 Of either may  
 Create the burden light.

And as this round  
 Is nowhere found  
 To flaw, or else to sever:  
 So let our love  
 As endless prove,  
 And pure as gold for ever.

ROBERT HERRICK.

#### THE EXCHANGE

WE pledged our hearts, my love and I,  
 I in my arms the maiden clasping;  
 I could not tell the reason why,  
 But, oh! I trembled like an aspen.

Her father's love she bade me gain;  
 I went, and shook like any reed!  
 I strove to act the man—in vain!  
 We had exchanged our hearts indeed.

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE.



## EPITHALAMION

**Y**E learnèd sisters, which have oftentimes  
Beene to me ayding, others to adorne,  
Whom ye thought worthy of your graceful rymes,  
That even the greatest did not greatly scorne  
To heare theyr names sung in your simple layes,  
But joyèd in theyr praise;  
And when ye list your owne mishaps to mourne  
Which death, or love, or fortunes wreck did  
rayse,  
Your string could soone to sadder tenor turne,  
And teach the woods and waters to lament  
Your dolefull dreriment:  
Now lay those sorrowfull complaints aside;  
And, having all your heads with girlands  
crownd,  
Helpe me mine owne loves prayses to resound;  
Ne let the same of any be envie:  
So Orpheus did for his owne bride!  
So I unto my selfe alone will sing;  
The woods shall to me answer, and my eccho  
ring.

Early, before the worlds light-giving lampe  
His golden beame upon the hils doth spread,  
Having disperst the nights unchearefull dampe,  
Doe ye awake; and, with fresh lusty-hed,  
Go to the bowre of my belovèd love,  
My truest turtle dove;  
Bid her awake; for Hymen is awake,



And long since ready forth his maske to move,  
With his bright Tead that flames with many a  
flake,  
And many a bachelor to waite on him,  
In theyr fresh garments trim.  
Bid her awake therefore, and soone her dight,  
For lo! the wishèd day is come at last,  
That shall, for all the paynes and sorrowes past,  
Pay to her usury of long delight:  
And, whylest she doth her dight,  
Doe ye to her of joy and solace sing,  
That all the woods may answer, and your eccho  
ring.

Bring with you all the Nymphes that you can  
heare  
Both of the rivers and the forrests greene,  
And of the sea that neighbours to her neare:  
Al with gay girlands goodly wel beseene.  
And let them also with them bring in hand  
Another gay girland  
For my fayre love, of lillyes and of roses,  
Bound truelove wize, with a blew silke riband.  
And let them make great store of bridale poses,  
And let them ecke bring store of other flowers,  
To deck the bridale bowers.  
And let the ground whereas her foot shall tread,  
For feare the stones her tender foot should wrong,  
Be strewed with fragrant flowers all along,  
And diapred lyke the discoloured mead.



Which done, doe at her chamber dore awayt,  
For she will waken strayt;  
The whiles doe ye this song unto her sing,  
The woods shall to you answer, and your eccho  
ring.

Ye Nymphes of Mulla, which with carefull heed  
The silver scaly trouts doe tend full well,  
And greedy pikes which use therein to feed;  
(Those trouts and pikes all others doo excell;)  
And ye likewise, which keepe the rushy lake,  
Where none doo fishes take;  
Bynd up the locks the which hang scattered light,  
And in his waters, which your mirror make,  
Behold your faces as the christall bright,  
That when you come whereas my love doth lie,  
No blemish she may spie.  
And eke, ye lightfoot mayds, which keepe the  
deere,  
That on the hoary mountayne used to towre;  
And the wylde wolves, which seeke them to de-  
voure,  
With your steele darts doo chace from comming  
neer;  
Be also present heere,  
To helpe to decke her, and to help to sing,  
That all the woods may answer, and your eccho  
ring.

Wake now, my love, awake! for it is time;  
The Rosy Morne long since left Tithones bed,



All ready to her silver coche to clyme;  
And Phoebus gins to shew his glorious hed.  
Hark! how the cheerful birds do chaunt they  
laies

And carroll of Loves praise.  
The merry Larke hir mattins sings aloft;  
The Thrush replies; the Mavis descant playes;  
The Ouzell shrills; the Ruddock warbles soft;  
So goodly all agree, with sweet consent,  
To this dayes merriment.

Ah! my deere love, why doe ye sleepe thus long?  
When meeter were that ye should now awake,  
T' awayt the comming of your joyous make,  
And hearken to the birds love-learnèd song,  
The deawy leaves among!  
Nor they of joy and pleasance to you sing,  
That all the woods them answer, and theyr eccho  
ring.

My love is now awake out of her dreames,  
And her fayre eyes, like stars that dimmèd were  
With darksome cloud, now shew theyr goodly  
beams

More bright then Hesperus his head doth rere.  
Come now, ye damzels, daughters of delight,  
Helpe quickly her to dight:  
But first come ye fayre houres, which were begot  
In Joves sweet paradice of Day and Night;  
Which doe the seasons of the yeare allot,  
And al, that ever in this world is fayre,



Doe make and still repayre:  
And ye three handmayds of the Cyprian Queene,  
The which doe still adorne her beauties pride,  
Helpe to addorne my beautifullest bride:  
And, as ye her array, still throw betweene  
Some graces to be seene;  
And, as ye use to Venus, to her sing,  
The whiles the woods shal answer, and your  
eccho ring.

Now is my love all ready forth to come:  
Let all the virgins therefore well awayt:  
And ye fresh boyes, that tend upon her groome,  
Prepare your selves; for he is comming strayt.  
Set all your things in seemely good aray,  
Fit for so joyfull day:  
The joyfulst day that ever sunne did see.  
Faire Sun! shew forth thy favourable ray,  
And let thy lifull heat not fervent be,  
For feare of burning her sunshyny face,  
Her beauty to disgrace.  
O fayrest Phœbus! father of the Muse!  
If ever I did honour thee aright,  
Or sing the thing that mote thy mind delight,  
Doe not thy servants simple boone refuse;  
But let this day, let this one day, be myne;  
Let all the rest be thine.  
Then I thy soverayne prayses loud wil sing,  
That all the woods shal answer, and theyr eccho  
ring.



Harke! how the Minstrils gin to shrill aloud  
Their merry Musick that resounds from far,  
The pipe, the tabor, and the trembling Croud,  
That well agree withouten breach or jar.  
But, most of all, the Damzels doe delite  
When they their tymbrels smyte,  
And thereunto doe daunce and carrol sweet,  
That all the sences they doe ravish quite;  
The whyles the boyes run up and downe the  
street,  
Crying aloud with strong confusèd noyce,  
As if it were one voyce,  
Hymen, iö Hymen, Hymen, they do shout;  
That even to the heavens they shouting shrill  
Doth reach, and all the firmament doth fill;  
To which the people standing all about,  
As in approvance, doe thereto applaud,  
And loud advaunce her laud;  
And evermore they Hymen, Hymen sing,  
That al the woods them answer, and theyr eccho  
ring.

Loe! where she comes along with portly pace,  
Lyke Phœbe, from her chamber of the East,  
Arysing forth to run her mighty race,  
Clad all in white, that seemes a virgin best.  
So well it her beseemes, that ye would weene  
Some angell she had beene.  
Her long loose yellow locks lyke golden wyre,



Sprinkled with perle, and perling flowres a-  
tweene,  
Doe lyke a golden mantle her attyre;  
And, being crownèd with a girland greene,  
Seeme lyke some mayden Queene.  
Her modest eyes, abashèd to behold  
So many gazers as on her do stare,  
Upon the lowly affixèd are;  
Ne dare lift up her countenance too bold,  
But blush to heare her prayses sung so loud,  
So farre from being proud.  
Nathlesse doe ye still loud her prayses sing,  
That all the woods may answer, and your eccho  
ring.

Tell me, ye merchants daughters, did ye see  
So fayre a creature in your towne before;  
So sweet, so lovely, and so mild as she,  
Adornd with beautyes grace and vertues store?  
Her goodly eyes lyke Saphyres shining bright,  
Her forehead yvory white,  
Her cheekes lyke apples which the sun hath  
rudded,  
Her lips lyke cherries charming men to byte,  
Her brest like to a bowle of creame uncruddled,  
Her paps lyke lyllies budded,  
Her snowie neck lyke to a marble towre;  
And all her body like a pallace fayre,  
Ascending up, with many a stately stayre,



[To honours seat and chastities sweet bowre  
Why stand ye still ye virgins in amaze,  
Upon her so to gaze,  
Whiles ye forget your former lay to sing,  
To which the woods did answer, and your eccho-  
ring?

But if ye saw that which no eyes can see,  
The inward beauty of her lively spright,  
Garnisht with heavenly guifts of high degree,  
Much more then would ye wonder at that sight,  
And stand astonisht lyke to those which red  
Medusaes mazeful hed.  
There dwels sweet love, and constant chastity,  
Unspotted fayth, and comely womanhood,  
Regard of honour, and mild modesty ;  
There vertue raynes as Queene in royal throne.  
And giveth lawes alone,  
The which the base affections doe obay,  
And yeeld theyr services unto her will ;  
Ne thought of thing uncomely ever may  
Thereto approch to tempt her mind to ill.  
Had ye once seene these her celestial treasures,  
And unrevealèd pleasures,  
Then would ye wonder, and her prayses sing,  
That al the woods should answer, and your eccho-  
ring.

Open the temple gates unto my love,  
Open them wide that she may enter in,



And all the postes adorne as doth behove,  
And all the pillours deck with girlands trim,  
For to receyve this Saynt with honour dew,  
That commeth in to you.  
With trembling steps, and humble reverence,  
She commeth in, before th' Almightyes view;  
Of her ye virgins learne obedience,  
When so ye come into those holy places,  
To humble your proud faces:  
Bring her up to th' high altar, that she may  
The sacred ceremonies there partake,  
The which do endlesse matrimony make;  
And let the roring Organs loudly play  
The praises of the Lord in lively notes;  
The whiles, with hollow throates,  
The Choristers the joyous Antheme sing,  
That al the woods may answere, and their eccho  
ring.

Behold, whiles she before the altar stands,  
Hearing the holy priest that to her speakes,  
And blesseth her with his two happy hands,  
How the red roses flush up in her cheekes,  
And the pure snow, with goodly vermill stayne  
Like crimsin dyde in grayne:  
That even th' Angels, which continually  
About the sacred Altare doe remaine,  
Forget their service and about her fly,  
Ofte peeping in her face, that seems more fayre,  
The more they on it stare.



Ring ye the bells, ye yong men of the towne,  
And leave your wonted labours for this day:  
This day is holy; doe ye write it downe,  
That ye for ever it remember may.  
This day the sunne is in his chiefest hight,  
With Barnaby the bright,  
From whence declining daily by degrees,  
He somewhat loseth of his heat and light,  
When once the Crab behind his back he sees.  
But for this time it ill ordainèd was,  
To chose the longest day in all the yeare,  
And shortest night, when longest fitter weare:  
Yet never day so long, but late would passe.  
Ring ye the bells, to make it weare away,  
And bonefiers make all day;  
And daunce about them, and about them sing,  
That all the woods may answer, and your eccho  
ring.

Ah! when will this long weary day have end,  
And lende me leave to come unto my love?  
How slowly do the houres theyr numbers spend?  
How slowly does sad Time his feathers move?  
Hast thee, O fayrest Planet, to thy home,  
Within the Westerne fome:  
Thy tyrèd steedes long since have need of rest.  
Long though it be, at last I see it gloome,  
And the bright evening-star with golden creast  
Appeare out of the East.  
Fayre childe of beauty! glorious lampe of love!



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That all the host of heaven in rankes doost lead,  
And guydest lovers through the nights sad dread,  
How chearefully thou lookest from above,  
And seemst to laugh atween thy twinkling light,  
As joying in the sight  
Of these glad many, which for joy doe sing,  
That all the woods them answer, and their eccho  
ring!

Now cease, ye damsels, your delights forepast;  
Enough it is that all the day was youres:  
Now day is doen, and night is nighing fast,  
Now bring the Bryde into the brydall boures.  
The night is come, now soon her disaray,  
And in her bed her lay;  
Lay her in lillies and in violets,  
And silken courteins over her display,  
And odoured sheetes, and Arras coverlets.  
Behold how goodly my faire love does ly,  
In proud humility!  
Like unto Maia, when as Jove her took  
In Tempe, lying on the flowry gras,  
Twixt sleepe and wake, after she weary was,  
With bathing in the Acidalian brooke.  
Now it is night, ye damsels may be gon,  
And leave my love alone,  
And leave likewise your former lay to sing:  
The woods no more shall answere, nor your eccho  
ring.



Now welcome, night! thou night so long expected,  
That long daies labour doest at last defray,  
And all my cares, which cruel Love collected,  
Hast sumd in one, and cancellèd for aye:  
Spread thy broad wing over my love and me,  
That no man may us see;  
And in thy sable mantle us enwrap,  
From feare of perrill and foule horror free.  
Let no false treason seeke us to entrap,  
Nor any dread disquiet once annoy  
The safety of our joy;  
But let the night be calme, and quiet some,  
Without tempestuous storms or sad afray:  
Lyke as when Jove with fayre Alcmena lay,  
When he begot the great Tirynthian groome:  
Or lyke as when he with thy selfe did lie  
And begot Majesty.  
And let the mayds and yong men cease to sing;  
Ne let the woods them answer nor theyr eccho  
ring.

Let no lamenting cryes, nor dolefull teares,  
Be heard all night within, nor yet without:  
Ne let false whispers, breeding hidden feares,  
Breake gentle sleepe with misconceivèd dout  
Let no deluding dreames, nor dreadfull sights,  
Make sudden sad affrights;



Ne let house-fyres, nor lightnings helpelesse  
harmes,

Ne let the Pouke, nor other evill sprights,

Ne let mischivous witches with theyr charmes,

Ne let hob Goblins, names whose sence we see  
not,

Fray us with things that be not:

Let not the shriech Oule nor the Storke be heard,

Nor the night Raven, that still deadly yels;

Nor damnèd ghosts, cald up with mighty spels,

Nor griesly vultures, make us once affeard:

Ne let th' unpleasant Quayre of Frogs still croking

Make us to wish theyr choking.

Let none of these theyr dreery accents sing;

Ne let the woods them answer, nor theyr eccho  
ring.

But let stil Silence trew night-watches keepe,

That sacred Peace may in assurance rayne,

And tymely Sleep, when it is tyme to sleepe,

May poure his limbs forth on your pleasant  
playne;

The whiles an hundred little wingèd loves,

Like divers-fethered doves,

Shall fly and flutter round about your bed,

And in the secret darke, that none reproves,

Their prety stealthes shal worke, and snares shal  
spread

To filch away sweet snatches of delight,



Conceald through covert night.  
Ye sonnes of Venus, play your sports at will!  
For greedy pleasure, carelesse of your toyes,  
Thinks more upon her paradise of joyes,  
Then what ye do, albe it good or ill.  
All night therefore attend your merry play,  
For it will soone be day:  
Now none doth hinder you, that say or sing;  
Ne will the woods now answer, nor your eccho  
ring.

Who is the same, which at my window peepes?  
Or whose is that faire face that shines so bright?  
Is it not Cinthia, she that never sleepes,  
But walkes about high heaven al the night?  
O! fayrest goddesse, do thou not envy  
My love with me to spy:  
For thou likewise didst love, though now un-  
thought,  
And for a fleece of wooll, which privily  
The Latmian shepherd once unto thee brought,  
His pleasures with thee wrought.  
Therefore to us be favourable now;  
And sith of wemens labours thou hast charge,  
And generation goodly dost enlarge,  
Encline thy will t' effect our wishfull vow,  
And the chast wombe informe with timely seed,  
That may our comfort breed:  
Till which we cease our hopefull hap to sing;  
Ne let the woods us answere, nor our eccho ring.



And thou, great Juno! which with awful might  
The lawes of wedlock still dost patronize;  
And the religion of the faith first plight  
With sacred rites hast taught to solemnize;  
And eeke for comfort often callèd art  
Of women in their smart;  
Eternally bind thou this lovely band,  
And all thy blessings unto us impart.  
And thou, glad Genius! in whose gentle hand  
The bridale bowre and geniall bed remaine,  
Without blemish or staine;  
And the sweet pleasures of theyr loves delight  
With secret ayde doest succour and supply,  
Till they bring forth the fruitful progeny;  
Send us the timely fruit of this same night.  
And thou, fayre Hebe! and thou, Hymen free!  
Grant that it may so be.  
Til which we cease your further prayse to sing;  
Ne any woods shall answer, nor your eccho ring.

And ye high heavens, the temple of the gods,  
In which a thousand torches flaming bright  
Doe burne, that to us wretched earthly clods  
In dreadful darknesse lend desired light;  
And all ye powers which in the same remayne,  
More then we men can fayne!  
Poure out your blessing on us plentiously,  
And happy influence upon us raine,  
That we may raise a large posterity,



Which from the earth, which they may long possesse  
 With lasting happinesse,  
 Up to your haughty pallaces may mount;  
 And, for the guerdon of theyr glorious merit,  
 May heavenly tabernacles there inherit,  
 Of blessed Saints for to increase the count.  
 So let us rest, sweet love, in hope of this,  
 And cease till then our tymely joyes to sing:  
 The woods no more us answer, nor our eccho  
 ring!

*Song! made in lieu of many ornaments,  
 With which my love should duly have been deckt,  
 Which cutting off through hasty accidents,  
 Ye would not stay your dew time to expect,  
 But promist both to recompens;  
 Be unto her a goodly ornament,  
 And for short time an endless monument.*

EDMUND SPENSER.

## MY LAST DUCHESS

*Ferrara*

**T**HAT'S my last Duchess painted on the  
 wall,  
 Looking as if she were alive. I call  
 That piece a wonder, now: Fra Pandolf's hands  
 Worked busily a day, and there she stands.



Will't please you sit and look at her? I said  
"Fra Pandolf" by design, for never read  
Strangers like you that pictured countenance,  
The depth and passion of its earnest glance,  
But to myself they turned (since none puts by  
The curtain I have drawn for you, but I)  
And seemed as they would ask me, if they durst,  
How such a glance came there; so, not the first  
Are you to turn and ask thus. Sir, 'twas not  
Her husband's presence only, called that spot  
Of joy into the Duchess' cheek: perhaps  
Fra Pandolf chanced to say, "Her mantle laps  
Over my lady's wrist too much," or "Paint  
Must never hope to reproduce the faint  
Half-flush that dies along her throat": such stuff  
Was courtesy, she thought, and cause enough  
For calling up that spot of joy. She had  
A heart—how shall I say?—too soon made glad,  
Too easily impressed: she liked whate'er  
She looked on, and her looks went everywhere.  
Sir, 'twas all one! My favour at her breast,  
The dropping of the daylight in the West,  
The bough of cherries some officious fool  
Broke in the orchard for her, the white mule  
She rode with round the terrace—all and each  
Would draw from her alike the approving speech,  
Or blush, at least. She thanked men,—good! but  
thanked  
Somehow—I know not how—as if she ranked



My gift of a nine-hundred-years-old name  
With anybody's gift. Who'd stoop to blame  
This sort of trifling? Even had you skill  
In speech—(which I have not)—to make your  
will

Quite clear to such an one, and say, "Just this  
Or that in you disgusts me; here you miss,  
Or there exceed the mark"—and if she let  
Herself be lessoned so, nor plainly set  
Her wits to yours, forsooth, and made excuse,  
—E'en then would be some stooping; and I  
choose

Never to stoop. Oh sir, she smiled, no doubt,  
Whene'er I passed her; but who passed without  
Much the same smile? This grew; I gave com-  
mands;

Then all smiles stopped together. There she  
stands

As if alive. Will 't please you rise? We'll meet  
The company below, then. I repeat,  
The Count your master's known munificence  
Is ample warrant that no just pretence  
Of mine for dowry will be disallowed;  
Though his fair daughter's self, as I avowed  
At starting, is my object. Nay, we'll go  
Together down, sir. Notice Neptune, though,  
Taming a sea-horse, thought a rarity,  
Which Claus of Innsbruck cast in bronze for me!

ROBERT BROWNING.



## PORPHYRIA'S LOVER

**T**HE rain set early in to-night,  
The sullen wind was soon awake,  
It tore the elm-tops down for spite,  
And did its worst to vex the lake:  
I listen'd with heart fit to break.  
When glided in Porphyria; straight  
She shut the cold out and the storm,  
And kneel'd and made the cheerless grate  
Blaze up, and all the cottage warm;  
Which done, she rose, and from her form  
Withdrew the dripping cloak and shawl,  
And laid her soil'd gloves by, untied  
Her hat and let the damp hair fall,  
And, last, she sat down by my side  
And call'd me. When no voice replied,  
She put my arm about her waist,  
And made her smooth white shoulder bare,  
And all her yellow hair displaced,  
And, stooping, made my cheek lie there,  
And spread, o'er all, her yellow hair,  
Murmuring how she loved me—she  
Too weak, for all her heart's endeavour,  
To set its struggling passion free  
From pride, and vainer ties dissever,  
And give herself to me for ever.  
But passion sometimes would prevail,  
Nor could to-night's gay feast restrain  
A sudden thought of one so pale



For love of her, and all in vain :  
So, she was come through wind and rain.  
Be sure I look'd up at her eyes  
Happy and proud ; at last I knew  
Porphyria worshipp'd me ; surprise  
Made my heart swell, and still it grew  
While I debated what to do.  
That moment she was mine, mine, fair,  
Perfectly pure and good : I found  
A thing to do, and all her hair  
In one long yellow string I wound  
Three times her little throat around,  
And strangled her. No pain felt she ;  
I am quite sure she felt no pain.  
As a shut bud that holds a bee,  
I warily oped her lids : again  
Laugh'd the blue eyes without a stain.  
And I untighten'd next the tress  
About her neck ; her cheek once more  
Blush'd bright beneath my burning kiss :  
I propp'd her head up as before,  
Only, this time my shoulder bore  
Her head, which droops upon it still :  
The smiling rosy little head,  
So glad it has its utmost will,  
That all it scorn'd at once is fled,  
And I, its love, am gain'd instead !  
Porphyria's love : she guess'd not how  
Her darling one wish would be heard.  
'And thus we sit together now,



And all night long we have not stirr'd,  
And yet God has not said a word!

ROBERT BROWNING.

### SORROWS OF WERTHER

WERTHER had a love for Charlotte  
Such as words could never utter;  
Would you know how first he met her?  
She was cutting bread-and-butter.

Charlotte was a married lady,  
And a moral man was Werther,  
And, for all the wealth of Indies,  
Would do nothing for to hurt her.

So he sighed and pined and ogled,  
And his passion boiled and bubbled,  
Till he blew his silly brains out,  
And no more was by it troubled.

Charlotte, having seen his body  
Borne before her on a shutter,  
Like a well-conducted person,  
Went on cutting bread-and-butter.  
WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY.



## CHORUS OF WOMEN

**T**HEY'RE always abusing the women,  
As a terrible plague to men:  
They say we're the root of all evil,  
And repeat it again and again;  
Of war, and quarrels, and bloodshed,  
All mischief, be what it may!  
And pray, then, why do you marry us,  
If we're all the plagues you say?  
And why do you take such care of us,  
And keep us so safe at home,  
And are never easy a moment  
If ever we chance to roam?  
When you ought to be thanking heaven  
That your Plague is out of the way,  
You all keep fussing and fretting—  
"Where is *my* Plague to-day?"  
If a Plague peeps out of the window,  
Up go the eyes of men;  
If she hides, then they all keep staring  
Until she looks out again.

Translated from the Greek of  
ARISTOPHANES by COLLINS.

## TO VINCENT CORBET, HIS SON

**W**HAT I shall leave thee, none can tell,  
But all shall say I wish thee well:  
I wish thee, Vin, before all wealth,



Both bodily and ghostly health;  
Nor too much wealth nor wit come to thee,  
So much of either may undo thee.  
I wish thee learning not for show,  
Enough for to instruct and know;  
Not such as gentlemen require  
To prate at table or at fire.

I wish thee all thy mother's graces,  
Thy father's fortunes and his places.  
I wish thee friends, and one at court,  
Not to build on, but support;  
To keep thee not in doing many  
Oppressions, but from suffering any.  
I wish thee peace in all thy ways,  
Nor lazy nor contentious days;  
And, when thy soul and body part,  
As innocent as now thou art.

RICHARD CORBET.

TO CHARLOTTE PULTENEY

**T**IMELY blossom, infant fair,  
Fondling of a happy pair,  
Every morn and every night  
Their solicitous delight,  
Sleeping, waking, still at ease,  
Pleasing, without skill to please;  
Little gossip, blithe and hale,  
Tattling many a broken tale,



Singing many a tuneless song,  
Lavish of a heedless tongue;  
Simple maiden, void of art,  
Babbling out the very heart,  
Yet abandoned to thy will,  
Yet imagining no ill,  
Yet too innocent to blush;  
Like the linnet in the bush  
To the mother-linnet's note  
Moduling her slender throat;  
Chirping forth thy petty joys,  
Wanton in the change of toys,  
Like the linnet green, in May  
Flitting to each bloomy spray;  
Wearied then and glad of rest,  
Like the linnet in the nest:—  
This thy present happy lot,  
This in time will be forgot:  
Other pleasures, other cares,  
Ever-busy Time prepares;  
And thou shalt in thy daughter see,  
This picture, once, resembled thee.

AMBROSE PHILIPS.

TO A PROUD KINSWOMAN

**F**AIR maid, had I not heard thy baby cries,  
Nor seen thy girlish sweet vicissitude,  
Thy mazy motions, striving to elude,  
Yet wooing still a parent's watchful eyes,—



Thy humours, many as the opal's dyes,  
 And lovely all; me thinks, thy scornful mood  
 And bearing high of stately womanhood,  
 Thy brow where Beauty sits to tyrannize  
 O'er humble love, had made me sadly fear thee;  
 For never sure was seen a Royal Bride,  
 Whose gentleness gave grace to so much pride.  
 My very thoughts would tremble to be near thee:  
 But when I see thee at thy father's side,  
 Old times unqueen thee, and old loves endear  
 thee.

HARTLEY COLERIDGE.

TO E. F.

**N**O doubt thy little bosom beats  
 When sounds a wedding bell,  
 No doubt it pants to taste the sweets  
 That songs and stories tell.

Awhile in shade content to lie,  
 Prolong life's morning dream,  
 While others rise at the first fly  
 That glitters on the stream.

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR.

TO THE YOUNGER LADY LUCY SYDNEY

**W**HY came I so untimely forth  
 Into a world which, wanting thee,



Could entertain us with no worth,  
Or shadow of felicity?  
That time should me so far remove  
From that which I was born to love.

Yet, fairest Blossom! do not slight  
That eye which you may know so soon;  
The rosy morn resigns her light  
And milder splendours to the noon:  
If such thy drawing beauty's power  
Who shall abide its noon-tide hour?

Hope waits upon the flowery prime;  
And summer though it be less gay,  
Yet is not looked on as a time  
Of declination or decay;  
For with a full hand she doth bring  
All that was promised by the spring.

EDMUND WALLER.

## DUTCH LULLABY \*

WYNKEN, Blynken, and Nod one night  
Sailed off in a wooden shoe,—  
Sailed on a river of misty light  
Into a sea of dew.

"Where are you going, and what do you wish?"  
The old moon asked the three.

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Charles Scribner's Sons, from *Poems*, by Eugene Field.



"We have come to fish for the herring-fish  
That live in this beautiful sea;  
Nets of silver and gold have we,"  
Said Wynken,  
Blynken,  
And Nod.

The old moon laughed and sung a song,  
As they rocked in the wooden shoe;  
And the wind that sped them all night long  
Ruffled the waves of dew.  
The little stars were the herring-fish  
That lived in the beautiful sea;  
"Now cast your nets wherever you wish,  
But never afraid are we!"  
So cried the stars to the fishermen three,  
Wynken,  
Blynken,  
And Nod.

All night long their nets they threw  
For the fish in the twinkling foam,  
Then down from the sky came the wooden shoe,  
Bringing the fishermen home;  
'Twas all so pretty a sail, it seemed  
As if it could not be;  
And some folk thought 'twas a dream they'd  
dreamed  
Of sailing that beautiful sea;



But I shall name you the fishermen three:

Wynken,  
Blynken,  
And Nod.

Wynken and Blynken are two little eyes,  
And Nod is a little head,  
And the wooden shoe that sailed the skies  
Is a wee one's trundle-bed ;  
So shut your eyes while Mother sings  
Of the wonderful sights that be,  
And you shall see the beautiful things  
As you rock in the misty sea  
Where the old shoe rocked the fishermen  
three,—

Wynken,  
Blynken,  
And Nod.

EUGENE FIELD.

#### CAPTAIN REECE

OF ALL the ships upon the blue  
No ship contained a better crew  
Than that of worthy Captain Reece,  
Commanding of *The Mantelpiece*.

He was adored by all his men,  
For worthy Captain Reece, R. N.,  
Did all that lay within him to  
Promote the comfort of his crew.



One summer eve, at half-past ten,  
He said (addressing all his men) :  
"Come, tell me, please, what I can do  
To please and gratify my crew?

"By any reasonable plan  
I'll make you happy, if I can;  
My own convenience count as *nil*;  
It is my duty, and I will."

Then up and answered William Lee  
(The kindly captain's coxswain he,  
A nervous, shy, low-spoken man),  
He cleared his throat and thus began:

"You have a daughter, CAPTAIN REECE,  
Ten female cousins and a niece,  
A ma, if what I'm told is true,  
Six sisters, and an aunt or two.

"Now, somehow, sir, it seems to me,  
More friendly-like we all should be  
If you united of 'em to  
Unmarried members of the crew.

"If you'd ameliorate our life,  
Let each select from them a wife;  
'And as for nervous me, old pal,  
Give me your own enchanting gal!"



If ever they were dull or sad,  
Their captain danced to them like mad,  
Or told, to make the time pass by,  
Droll legends of his infancy.

A feather bed had every man,  
Warm slippers and hot-water can,  
Brown windsor from the captain's store,  
A valet, too, to every four.

Did they with thirst in summer burn?  
Lo, seltzogenes at every turn,  
And on all very sultry days  
Cream ices handed round on trays.

Then currant wine and ginger pops  
Stood handily on all the "tops";  
And, also, with amusement rife,  
A "Zoetrope, or Wheel of Life."

New volumes came across the sea  
From Mister Mudie's libraree;  
*The Times* and *Saturday Review*  
Beguiled the leisure of the crew.

Kind-hearted Captain Reece, R. N.,  
Was quite devoted to his men;  
In point of fact, good Captain Reece  
Beatified *The Mantelpiece*.



One summer eve, at half-past ten,  
He said (addressing all his men) :  
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To please and gratify my crew?

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I'll make you happy, if I can ;  
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If you united of 'em to  
Unmarried members of the crew.

"If you'd ameliorate our life,  
Let each select from them a wife ;  
'And as for nervous me, old pal,  
Give me your own enchanting gal!"



Good CAPTAIN REECE, that worthy man,  
Debated on his coxswain's plan:

"I quite agree," he said, "O BILL;  
It is my duty, and I will.

"My daughter, that enchanting gurl,  
Has just been promised to an earl,  
And all my other familiee,  
To peers of various degree.

"But what are dukes and viscounts to  
The happiness of all my crew?  
The word I gave you I'll fulfil;  
It is my duty, and I will.

"As you desire it shall befall,  
I'll settle thousands on you all,  
And I shall be, despite my hoard  
The only bachelor on board."

The boatswain of *The Mantelpiece*,  
He blushed and spoke to CAPTAIN REECE.  
"I beg your honour's leave," he said,  
"If you would wish to go and wed,

"I have a widowed mother who  
Would be the very thing for you—  
She long has loved you from afar,  
She washes for you, CAPTAIN R."



The captain saw the dame that day—  
Addressed her in his playful way—  
“And did it want a wedding ring?  
It was a tempting ickle sing!

“Well, well, the chaplain I will seek,  
We’ll all be married this day week—  
At yonder church upon the hill;  
It is my duty, and I will!”

The sisters, cousins, aunts, and niece,  
And widowed ma of CAPTAIN REECE,  
Attended there as they were bid;  
It was their duty, and they did.

W. S. GILBERT.

### THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN

*A Child's Story* (Written for and inscribed to W. M. the Younger).

**H**AMELIN Town's in Brunswick,  
By famous Hanover city;  
The river Weser, deep and wide,  
Washes its wall on the southern side;  
A pleasanter spot you never spied;  
But, when begins my ditty,  
Almost five hundred years ago,  
To see the townsfolk suffer so  
From vermin, was a pity.



Rats!

They fought the dogs and killed the cats,  
And bit the babies in the cradles,  
And ate the cheeses out of the vats,  
And licked the soup from the cooks' own ladles,  
Split open the kegs of salted sprats,  
Made nests inside men's Sunday hats,  
And even spoiled the women's chats  
By drowning their speaking  
With shrieking and squeaking  
In fifty different sharps and flats.  
At last the people in a body

To the Town Hall came flocking:  
" 'T is clear," cried they, "our Mayor's a noddy;  
And as for our Corporation—shocking  
To think we buy gowns lined with ermine  
For dolts that can't or won't determine  
What's best to rid us of our vermin!  
You hope, because you're old and obese,  
To find in the furry civic robe ease?  
Rouse up, sirs! Give your brains a racking  
To find the remedy we're lacking,  
Or, sure as fate, we'll send you packing!"  
At this the Mayor and Corporation  
Quaked with a mighty consternation.

An hour they sat in council;

At length the Mayor broke silence:  
"For a guilder I'd my ermine gown sell,  
I wish I were a mile hence!



It's easy to bid one rack one's brain—  
I'm sure my poor head aches again,  
I've scratched it so, and all in vain.  
Oh for a trap, a trap, a trap!"

Just as he said this, what should hap  
At the chamber-door but a gentle tap?  
"Bless us," cried the Mayor, "what's that?"  
(With the Corporation as he sat,  
Looking little though wondrous fat;  
Nor brighter was his eye, nor moister  
Than a too-long-opened oyster,  
Save when at noon his paunch grew mutinous  
For a plate of turtle green and glutinous)  
"Only a scraping of shoes on the mat?  
Anything like the sound of a rat  
Makes my heart go pit-a-pat!"

"Come in!"—the Mayor cried, looking bigger:  
And in did come the strangest figure!  
His queer long coat from heel to head  
Was half of yellow and half of red,  
And he himself was tall and thin,  
With sharp blue eyes, each like a pin,  
And light loose hair, yet swarthy skin,  
Not tuft on cheek nor beard on chin,  
But lips where smiles went out and in;  
There was no guessing his kith and kin:  
And nobody could enough admire  
The tall man and his quaint attire.  
Quoth one: "It's as my great-grandsire,



Starting up at the Trump of Doom's tone,  
Had walked this way from his painted tomb-  
stone!"

He advanced to the council-table:  
And, "Please your honours," said he, "I'm able,  
By means of a secret charm, to draw  
All creatures living beneath the sun,  
That creep or swim or fly or run,  
After me so as you never saw!  
And I chiefly use my charm  
On creatures that do people harm,  
The mole and toad and newt and viper;  
And people call me the Pied Piper."  
(And here they noticed round his neck  
A scarf of red and yellow stripe,  
To match with his coat of the self-same check;  
And at the scarf's end hung a pipe;  
And his fingers, they noticed, were ever straying  
As if impatient to be playing  
Upon this pipe, as low it dangled  
Over his vesture so old-fangled.)  
"Yet," said he, "poor piper as I am,  
In Tartary I freed the Cham,  
Last June, from his huge swarms of gnats;  
I eased in Asia the Nizam  
Of a monstrous brood of vampire-bats:  
And as for what your brain bewilders,  
If I can rid your town of rats  
Will you give me a thousand guilders?"



“One? fifty thousand!”—was the exclamation  
Of the astonished Mayor and Corporation.

Into the street the Piper stepped,  
Smiling first a little smile,  
As if he knew what magic slept  
In his quiet pipe the while;  
Then, like a musical adept,  
To blow the pipe his lips he wrinkled,  
And green and blue his sharp eyes twinkled,  
Like a candle-flame where salt is sprinkled;  
And ere three shrill notes the pipe uttered,  
You heard as if an army muttered;  
And the muttering grew to a grumbling;  
And the grumbling grew to a mighty rumbling;  
And out of the houses the rats came tumbling.  
Great rats, small rats, lean rats, brawny rats,  
Brown rats, black rats, grey rats, tawny rats,  
Grave old plodders, gay young friskers,  
Fathers, mothers, uncles, cousins,  
Cocking tails and pricking whiskers,  
Families by tens and dozens,  
Brothers, sisters, husbands, wives—  
Followed the Piper for their lives.  
From street to street he piped advancing,  
And step for step they followed dancing,  
Until they came to the river Weser,  
Wherein all plunged and perished!  
—Save one who, stout as Julius Cæsar,  
Swam across and lived to carry



(As he, the manuscript he cherished)  
To Rat-land home his commentary:  
Which was, "At the first shrill notes of the pipe,  
I heard a sound as of scraping tripe,  
And putting apples, wondrous ripe,  
Into a cider-press's gripe:  
And a moving away of pickle-tub-boards,  
And a leaving ajar of conserve-cupboards,  
And a drawing the corks of train-oil-flasks,  
And a breaking the hoops of butter-casks:  
And it seemed as if a voice  
(Sweeter far than by harp or by psaltery  
Is breathed) called out, 'O rats, rejoice!  
The world is grown to one vast dry-saltery!  
So munch on, crunch on, take your nuncheon,  
Breakfast, supper, dinner, luncheon!  
And just as a bulky sugar puncheon,  
All ready staved, like a great sun shone  
Glorious scarce an inch before me,  
Just as methought it said, 'Come, bore me!'  
—I found the Weser rolling o'er me."

You should have heard the Hamelin people  
Ringing the bells till they rocked the steeple.  
"Go," cried the Mayor, "and get long poles,  
Poke out the nests and block up the holes!  
Consult with carpenters and builders,  
And leave in our town not even a trace  
Of the rats!"—when suddenly, up the face  
Of the Piper perked in the market-place,



With a, "First, if you please, my thousand guilders!"

A thousand guilders! The Mayor looked blue;  
So did the Corporation too.

For council dinners made rare havoc  
With Claret, Moselle, Vin-de-Grave, Hock;  
And half the money would replenish  
Their cellar's biggest butt with Rhenish.

To pay this sum to a wandering fellow  
With a gypsy coat of red and yellow!

"Besides," quoth the Mayor with a knowing  
wink,

"Our business was done at the river's brink;  
We saw with our eyes the vermin sink,  
And what's dead can't come to life, I think.  
So, friend, we're not the folks to shrink  
From the duty of giving you something for drink,  
And a matter of money to put in your poke;  
But as for the guilders, what we spoke  
Of them, as you very well know, was in joke.  
Besides, our losses have made us thrifty.  
A thousand guilders! Come, take fifty!"

The Piper's face fell, and he cried,

"No trifling! I can't wait, beside!

I've promised to visit by dinner time

Bagdat, and accept the prime

Of the Head-Cook's pottage, all he's rich in,

For having left, in the Caliph's kitchen,



Of a nest of scorpions no survivor:  
With him I proved no bargain-driver,  
With you, don't think I'll bate a stiver!  
And folks who put me in a passion  
May find me pipe after another fashion."

"How?" cried the Mayor, "d'ye think I brook  
Being worse treated than a Cook?  
Insulted by a lazy ribald  
With idle pipe and vesture piebald?  
You threaten us, fellow? Do your worst,  
Blow your pipe there till you burst!"

One more he stepped into the street,  
And to his lips again  
Laid his long pipe of smooth straight cane;  
And ere he blew three notes (such sweet  
Soft notes as yet musician's cunning  
Never gave the enraptured air)  
There was a rustling that seemed like a bustling  
Of merry crowds justling at pitching and hustling;  
Small feet were pattering, wooden shoes clattering  
Little hands clapping and little tongues chattering,  
And, like fowls in a farm-yard when barley is  
scattering,  
Out came the children running.  
All the little boys and girls,  
With rosy cheeks and flaxen curls,  
And sparkling eyes and teeth like pearls,



Tripping and skipping, ran merrily after  
The wonderful music with shouting and laughter.

The Mayor was dumb, and the Council stood  
As if they were changed into blocks of wood,  
Unable to move a step, or cry  
To the children merrily skipping by,  
—Could only follow with the eye  
That joyous crowd at the Piper's back.  
But how the Mayor was on the rack,  
And the wretched Council's bosoms beat,  
As the Piper turned from the High Street  
To where the Weser rolled its waters  
Right in the way of their sons and daughters!  
However, he turned from South to West,  
And to Koppelberg Hill his steps addressed,  
And after him the children pressed;  
Great was the joy in every breast.  
"He never can cross that mighty top!  
He's forced to let the piping drop,  
And we shall see our children stop!"  
When, lo, as they reached the mountain-side,  
A wondrous portal opened wide,  
As if a cavern was suddenly hollowed;  
And the Piper advanced and the children fol-  
lowed,  
And when all were in to the very last,  
The door in the mountain-side shut fast.  
Did I say all? No! One was lame,  
And could not dance the whole of the way;



And in after years if you would blame  
His sadness, he was used to say,—  
“It’s dull in our town since my playmates left!  
I can’t forget that I’m bereft  
Of all the pleasant sights they see,  
Which the Piper also promised me.  
For he led us, he said, to a joyous land,  
Joining the town and just at hand,  
Where waters gushed and fruit-trees grew  
And flowers put forth a fairer hue,  
And everything was strange and new;  
The sparrows were brighter than peacocks here,  
And their dogs outran our fallow deer,  
And honey-bees had lost their stings,  
And horses were born with eagles’ wings;  
And just as I became assured  
My lame foot would be speedily cured,  
The music stopped and I stood still,  
And found myself outside the hill,  
Left alone against my will,  
To go now limping as before,  
And never hear of that country more!”  
Alas, alas for Hamelin!

There came into many a burgher’s pate  
A text which says that heaven’s gate  
Opes to the rich at as easy rate  
As the needle’s eye takes a camel in!  
The Mayor sent East, West, North and South,  
To offer the Piper, by word of mouth,  
Wherever it was men’s lot to find him,



Silver and gold to his heart's content,  
If he'd only return the way he went,  
    And bring the children behind him.  
But when they saw 't was a lost endeavour,  
And Piper and dancers were gone for ever,  
They made a decree that lawyers never  
    Should think their records dated duly  
If, after the day of the month and year,  
These words did not as well appear,  
"And so long after what happened here  
    On the Twenty second of July,  
Thirteen hundred and seventy-six":  
And the better in memory to fix  
The place of the children's last retreat,  
They called it, the Pied Piper's Street—  
Where any one playing on pipe or tabor  
Was sure for the future to lose his labour.  
Nor suffered they hostelry or tavern  
    To shock with mirth a street so solemn;  
But opposite the place of the cavern  
    They wrote the story on a column,  
And on the great church-window painted  
The same, to make the world acquainted  
How their children were stolen away,  
And there it stands to this very day.  
And I must not omit to say  
That in Transylvania there's a tribe  
Of alien people who ascribe  
The outlandish ways and dress  
On which their neighbours lay such stress,



To their fathers and mothers having risen  
Out of some subterraneous prison  
Into which they were trepanned  
Long time ago in a mighty band  
Out of Hamelin town in Brunswick land,  
But how or why, they don't understand.

So, Willy, let me and you be wipers  
Of scores out with all men—especially pipers!  
And, whether they pipe us free fróm rats or fróm  
mice,  
If we've promised them aught, let us keep our  
promise!

ROBERT BROWNING.

### JABBERWOCKY

'T WAS brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.

"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!  
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch  
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun  
The frumious Bandersnatch!"

He took his vorpal sword in hand:  
Long time the manxome foe he sought,—



So rested he by the Tumtum tree,  
And stood awhile in thought.

And as in uffish thought he stood,  
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,  
Came whiffling through the tulgey wood,  
And burbled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and through  
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!  
He left it dead, and with his head  
He went galumphing back.

"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?  
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!  
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"  
He chortled in his joy.

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and bimble in the wabe;  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.

LEWIS CARROLL.

### THE OWL AND THE PUSSY-CAT

**T**HE Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea  
In a beautiful pea-green boat:  
They took some honey, and plenty of money  
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.  
The owl looked up to the stars above,



And sang to a small guitar,  
"O lovely Pussy, O Pussy, my love,  
What a beautiful Pussy you are,  
You are,  
You are!

What a beautiful Pussy you are,

Pussy said to the Owl, "You elegant fowl,  
How charmingly sweet you sing!  
Oh! Let us be married; too long we have tarried:  
But what shall we do for a ring?"  
They sailed away, for a year and a day,  
To the land where the bong-tree grows;  
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood,  
With a ring at the end of his nose,  
His nose,  
His nose,  
With a ring at the end of his nose.

"Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling  
Your ring?" Said the Piggy, "I will."  
So they took it away and were married next day  
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.  
They dined on mince and slices of quince,  
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;  
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,  
They danced by the light of the moon,  
The moon,  
The moon,  
They danced by the light of the moon.

EDWARD LEAR.



THE WALRUS AND THE CARPENTER

THE sun was shining on the sea,  
 Shining with all his might:  
 He did his very best to make  
 The billows smooth and bright—  
 And this was odd, because it was  
 The middle of the night.

The moon was shining sulkily,  
 Because she thought the sun  
 Had got no business to be there  
 After the day was done—  
 "It's very rude of him," she said,  
 "To come and spoil the fun!"

The sea was wet as wet could be,  
 The sands were dry as dry.  
 You could not see a cloud, because  
 No cloud was in the sky:  
 No birds were flying overhead—  
 There were not birds to fly.

The Walrus and the Carpenter  
 Were walking close at hand:  
 They wept like anything to see  
 Such quantities of sand:



"If this were only cleared away,"  
They said, "it *would* be grand!"

"If seven maids with seven mops  
Swept it for half a year,  
Do you suppose," the Walrus said,  
"That they could get it clear?"  
"I doubt it," said the Carpenter,  
And shed a bitter tear.

"O Oysters, come and walk with us!"  
The Walrus did beseech.  
"A pleasant talk, a pleasant walk,  
Along the briny beach:  
We cannot do with more than four,  
To give a hand to each."

The eldest Oyster looked at him,  
But never a word he said:  
The eldest Oyster winked his eye,  
And shook his heavy head—  
Meaning to say he did not choose  
To leave the oyster-bed.

But four young Oysters hurried up,  
All eager for the treat:  
Their coats were brushed, their faces washed,  
Their shoes were clean and neat—  
And this was odd, because, you know,  
They hadn't any feet.



Four other Oysters followed them,  
And yet another four;  
And thick and fast they came at last,  
And more, and more, and more—  
All hopping through the frothy waves,  
And scrambling to the shore.

The Walrus and the Carpenter  
Walked on a mile or so,  
And then they rested on a rock  
Conveniently low:  
And all the little Oysters stood  
And waited in a row.

"The time has come," the Walrus said,  
"To talk of many things:  
Of shoes—and ships—and sealing-wax—  
Of cabbages—and kings—  
And why the sea is boiling hot—  
And whether pigs have wings."

"But wait a bit," the Oysters cried,  
"Before we have our chat;  
For some of us are out of breath,  
And all of us are fat!"  
"No hurry!" said the Carpenter.  
They thanked him much for that.

"A loaf of bread," the Walrus said,  
"Is what we chiefly need:



Pepper and vinegar besides  
Are very good indeed—  
Now, if you're ready, Oysters dear,  
We can begin to feed."

"But not on us!" the Oysters cried,  
Turning a little blue.  
"After such kindness, that would be  
A dismal thing to do!"  
"The night is fine," the Walrus said.  
"Do you admire the view?"

"It was so kind of you to come!  
And you are very nice!"  
The Carpenter said nothing but  
"Cut us another slice.  
I wish you were not quite so deaf—  
I've had to ask you twice!"

"It seems a shame," the Walrus said,  
"To play them such a trick,  
After we've brought them out so far,  
And make them trot so quick!"  
The Carpenter said nothing but  
"The butter's spread too thick!"

"I weep for you," the Walrus said:  
"I deeply sympathize."  
With sobs and tears he sorted out  
Those of the largest size,



ODE ON THE DEATH OF A FAVOURITE CAT 101

Holding his pocket-handkerchief  
Before his streaming eyes.

“O Oysters,” said the Carpenter,  
“You’ve had a pleasant run!  
Shall we be trotting home again?”  
But answer came there none—  
And this was scarcely odd, because  
They’d eaten every one.

LEWIS CARROLL.

ODE ON THE DEATH OF A FAVOURITE CAT  
DROWNED IN A TUB OF GOLD FISHES

’T WAS on a lofty vase’s side  
Where China’s gayest art had dyed  
The azure flowers, that blow;  
Demurest of the tabby kind,  
The pensive Selima reclined  
Gazed on the lake below.

Her conscious tail her joy declared;  
The fair round face, the snowy beard,  
The velvet of her paws,  
Her coat, that with the tortoise vies,  
Her ears of jet, and emerald eyes  
She saw; and purred applause.



Still had she gazed ; but 'midst the tide  
Two angel forms were seen to glide,  
The Genii of the stream :  
Their scaly armour's Tyrian hue  
Through richest purple to the view  
Betrayed a golden gleam.

The hapless Nymph with wonder saw :  
A whisker first and then a claw  
With many an ardent wish,  
She stretched in vain to reach the prize.  
What female heart can gold despise ?  
What Cat's averse to fish ?

Presumptuous Maid ! with looks intent  
Again she stretched, again she bent,  
Nor knew the gulf between.  
(Malignant Fate sat by and smiled)  
The slippery verge her feet beguiled,  
She tumbled headlong in.

Eight times emerging from the flood  
She mewed to every watry God,  
Some speedy aid to send.  
No Dolphin came, no Nereid stirred :  
Nor cruel Tom, nor Susan heard.  
A Favourite has no friend !

From hence, ye Beauties, undeceived,  
Know, one false step is ne'er retrieved,



And be with caution bold.  
Not all that tempts your wandering eyes  
And heedless hearts, is lawful prize;  
Nor all, that glisters, gold.

THOMAS GRAY.

## FIRST LOVE

'TIS sweet to hear the watch-dog's honest  
bark  
Bay deep-mouthed welcome as we draw near  
home;  
'Tis sweet to know there is an eye will mark  
Our coming, and look brighter when we come;  
'Tis sweet to be awakened by the lark,  
Or lulled by falling waters; sweet the hum  
Of bees, the voice of girls, the song of birds,  
The lisp of children, and their earliest words.

Sweet is the vintage, when the showering grapes  
In Bacchanal profusion reel to earth,  
Purple and gushing; sweet are our escapes  
From civic revelry to rural mirth;  
Sweet to the miser are his glittering heaps,  
Sweet to the father is his first-born's birth,  
Sweet is revenge—especially to women,  
Pillage to soldiers, prize-money to seamen.

Sweet is a legacy, and passing sweet  
The unexpected death of some old lady



Or gentleman of seventy years complete,  
Who've made "us youth" wait too—too long  
already

For an estate, or cash, or country seat,  
Still breaking, but with stamina so steady  
That all the Israelites are fit to mob its  
Next owner for their double-damned post-obits.

'Tis sweet to win, no matter how, one's laurels,  
By blood or ink, 'tis sweet to put an end  
To strife; 'tis sometimes sweet to have our  
quarrels,

Particularly with a tiresome friend:  
Sweet is old wine in bottles, ale in barrels;  
Dear is the helpless creature we defend  
Against the world; and dear the schoolboy spot  
We ne'er forget, though there we are forgot.

But sweeter still than this, than these, than all,  
Is first and passionate love—it stands alone,  
Like Adam's recollection of his fall;

The tree of knowledge has been plucked—all's  
known—

And life yields nothing further to recall

Worthy of this ambrosial sin, so shown,  
No doubt in fable, as the unforgiven  
Fire which Prometheus filched for us from  
heaven.

LORD BYRON.



## ON LENDING A PUNCH BOWL

**T**HIS ancient silver bowl of mine,—it tells  
of good old times,  
Of joyous days, and jolly nights, and merry  
Christmas chimes;  
They were a free and jovial race, but honest,  
brave, and true,  
That dipped their ladle in the punch when this  
old bowl was new.

A Spanish galleon brought the bar; so runs the  
ancient tale;  
'Twas hammered by an Antwerp smith, whose  
arm was like a flail;  
And now and then between the strokes, for fear  
his strength should fail,  
He wiped his brow, and quaffed a cup of good old  
Flemish ale.

'Twas purchased by an English squire to please  
his loving dame,  
Who saw the cherubs, and conceived a longing  
for the same;  
And oft, as on the ancient stock another twig was  
found,  
'Twas filled with candle spiced and hot, and  
handed smoking round.



But, changing hands, it reached at length a  
Puritan divine,  
Who used to follow Timothy, and take a little  
wine,  
But hated punch and prelacy; and so it was,  
perhaps,  
He went to Leyden, where he found conventicles  
and schnaps.

And then, of course, you know what's next,—it  
left the Dutchman's shore  
With those that in the *Mayflower* came,—a  
hundred souls and more,—  
Along with all the furniture, to fill their new  
abodes,—  
To judge by what is still on hand, at least a  
hundred loads.

'Twas on a dreary winter's eve, the night was  
closing dim,  
When brave Miles Standish took the bowl, and  
filled it to the brim;  
The little Captain stood and stirred the posset  
with his sword,  
And all his sturdy men-at-arms were ranged about  
the board.

He poured the fiery Hollands in,—the man that  
never feared,—



He took a long and solemn draught, and wiped  
his yellow beard;  
And one by one the musketeers—the men that  
fought and prayed—  
All drank as 'twere their mother's milk, and not  
a man afraid.  
That night, affrighted from his nest, the scream-  
ing eagle flew,  
He heard the Pequot's ringing whoop, the soldier's  
wild halloo;  
And there the sachem learned the rule he taught  
to kith and kin,  
"Run from the white man when you find he  
smells of Hollands gin!"

A hundred years, and fifty more, had spread their  
leaves and snows,  
A thousand rubs had flattened down each little  
cherub's nose,  
When once again the bowl was filled, but not in  
mirth or joy,  
'Twas mingled by a mother's hand to cheer her  
parting boy.

"Drink, John," she said, "'twill do you good,—  
poor child, you'll never bear  
This working in the dismal trench, out in the  
midnight air;  
And if—God bless me!—you were hurt, 'twould  
keep away the chill."



So John *did* drink,—and well he wrought that  
night at Bunker's Hill!

I tell you, there was generous warmth in good  
old English cheer;

I tell you, 'twas a pleasant thought to bring its  
symbol here.

'Tis but the fool that loves excess;—hast thou a  
drunken soul?

Thy bane is in thy shallow skull, not in my  
silver bowl!

I love the memory of the past,—its pressed yet  
fragrant flowers,—

The moss that clothes its broken walls,—the ivy  
on its towers;—

Nay, this poor bauble it bequeathed,—my eyes  
grow moist and dim,

To think of all the vanished joys that danced  
around its brim.

Then fill a fair and honest cup, and bear it  
straight to me;

The goblet hallows all it holds, whate'er the  
liquid be;

And may the cherubs on its face protect me from  
the sin,

That dooms me to those dreadful words,—“My  
dear, where *have* you been?”

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.



## BACK AND SIDE, GO BARE, GO BARE

**I** CANNOT eat but little meat,  
 My stomach is not good;  
 But sure I think that I can drink  
 With him that wears a hood.  
 Though I go bare, take ye no care,  
 I nothing am a-cold;  
 I stuff my skin so full within  
 Of jolly good ale and old.  
     Back and side go bare, go bare;  
     Both foot and hand go cold;  
     But, belly, God send thee good ale enough,  
     Whether it be new or old.

I love no roast but a nut-brown toast,  
     And a crab laid in the fire;  
 A little bread shall do me stead;  
     Much bread I not desire.  
 No frost, nor snow no wind, I trow,  
     Can hurt me if I wold;  
 I am so wrapp'd and thoroughly lapp'd  
     Of jolly good ale and old.  
     Back and side go bare, go bare, &c.

And Tib, my wife, that as her life  
     Loveth well good ale to seek,  
 Full oft drinks she till ye may see  
     The tears run down her cheek:  
 Then doth she trowl to me the bowl  
     Even as a maltworm should,



And saith, "Sweetheart, I took my part  
Of this jolly good ale and old."

Back and side go bare, go bare, &c.

Now let them drink till they nod and wink,

Even as good fellows should do;

They shall not miss to have the bliss

Good ale doth bring men to;

And all poor souls that have scour'd bowls

Or have them lustily troll'd,

God save the lives of them and their wives,

Whether they be young or old.

Back and side go bare, go bare;

Both foot and hand go cold;

But, belly, God send thee good ale enough,

Whether it be new or old.

JOHN STILL.

#### SUBLIME TOBACCO

**S**UBLIME tobacco! which from east to west  
Cheers the tar's labour or the Turkman's  
rest;

Which on the Moslem's ottoman divides

His hours, and rivals opium and his brides;

Magnificent in Stamboul, but less grand,

Though not less loved, in Wapping or the Strand

Divine in hookas, glorious in a pipe,

When tipped with amber, mellow, rich, and ripe;

Like other charmers, wooing the caress,



More dazzling when daring in full dress;  
Yet thy true lovers more admire by far  
Thy naked beauties— Give me a cigar!

LORD BYRON.

## MY BOOKS

THEY dwell in the odour of camphor,  
They stand in a Sheraton shrine,  
They are “warranted early editions,”  
These worshipful tomes of mine;—

In their creamiest “Oxford vellum,”  
In their redolent “crushed Levant,”  
With their delicate watered linings,  
They are jewels of price, I grant;—

Blind-tooled and morocco-jointed,  
They have Zaehnsdorf’s daintiest dress,  
They are graceful, attenuate, polished,  
But they gather the dust, no less;—

For the row that I prize is yonder,  
Away on the unglazed shelves,  
The bulged and bruised *octavos*,  
The dear and the dumpy twelves,—

Montaigne with his sheepskin blistered,  
And Howell the worse for wear,



And the worm-drilled Jesuits' Horace,  
And the little old cropped Molière,

And the Burton I bought for a florin,  
And the Rabelais foxed and flea'd,—  
For the others I never have opened,  
But those are the books I read.

AUSTIN DOBSON.

#### THE MERMAID TAVERN

SOULS of Poets dead and gone,  
What Elysium have ye known,  
Happy field or mossy cavern,  
Choicer than the Mermaid cavern,  
Have ye tippled drink more fine  
Than mine host's Canary wine?  
Or are fruits of Paradise  
Sweeter than those dainty pies  
Of venison? O generous food!  
Dressed as though bold Robin Hood  
Would, with his maid Marian,  
Sup and bowse from horn and can.

I have heard that on a day  
Mine host's sign-board flew away,  
Nobody knew whither, till  
An astrologer's old quill  
To a sheepskin gave the story,



Said he saw you in your glory,  
 Underneath a new old sign  
 Sipping beverage divine,  
 And pledging with contented smack  
 The Mermaid in the Zodiac!

Souls of Poets dead and gone,  
 What Elysium have ye known,  
 Happy field or mossy cavern,  
 Choicer than the Mermaid Tavern?

JOHN KEATS.

## ON FIRST LOOKING INTO CHAPMAN'S HOMER

**M**UCH have I travell'd in the realms of gold,  
 And many goodly states and kingdoms seen;  
 Round many western islands have I been  
 Which bards in fealty to Apollo hold.  
 Oft of one wide expanse had I been told  
 That deep-brow'd Homer ruled as his demesne:  
 Yet did I never breathe its pure serene  
 Till I heard Chapman speak out loud and bold:  
 Then felt I like some watcher of the skies  
 When a new planet swims into his ken;  
 Or like stout Cortez, when with eagle eyes  
 He stared at the Pacific—and all his men  
 Look'd at each other with a wild surmise—  
 Silent, upon a peak in Darien.

JOHN KEATS.



## JENNY KISSED ME

*(Written for Mrs. Carlyle)*

JENNY kissed me when we met,  
Jumping from the chair she sat in.  
Time, you thief! who love to get  
Sweets into your list, put that in.  
Say I'm weary, say I'm sad;  
Say that health and wealth have missed me;  
Say I'm growing old, but add—  
Jenny kissed me!  
LEIGH HUNT.

## WITH A GUITAR, TO JANE

ARIEL to Miranda:—Take  
This slave of Music, for the sake  
Of him who is the slave of thee,  
And teach it all the harmony  
In which thou canst, and only thou,  
Make the delighted spirit glow,  
Till joy denies itself again,  
And, too intense, is turned to pain;  
For by permission and command  
Of thine own Prince Ferdinand,  
Poor Ariel sends this silent token  
Of more than ever can be spoken;  
Your guardian spirit, Ariel, who  
From life to life, must still pursue  
You happiness, for thus alone



Can Ariel ever find his own.  
From Prospero's enchanted cell,  
As the mighty verses tell,  
To the throne of Naples, he  
Lit you o'er the trackless sea,  
Flitting on, your prow before,  
Like a living meteor.  
When you die, the silent Moon  
In her interlunar swoon,  
Is not sadder in her cell  
Than deserted Ariel.  
When you live again on earth,  
Like an unseen star of birth  
Ariel guides you o'er the sea  
Of life from your nativity.  
Many changes have been run  
Since Ferdinand and you begun  
Your course of love, and Ariel still  
Has tracked your steps and served your will;  
Now, in humbler, happier lot,  
This is all remembered not;  
And now, alas! the poor sprite is  
Imprisoned, for some fault of his,  
In a body like a grave;—  
From you he only dares to crave,  
For his service and his sorrow,  
A smile to-day, a song to-morrow.

The artist who this idol wrought,  
To echo all harmonious thought,



Felled a tree, while on the steep  
The woods were in their winter sleep,  
Rocked in that repose divine  
On the wind-swept Apennine;  
And dreaming, some of Autumn past,  
And some of Spring approaching fast,  
And some of April buds and showers,  
And some of songs in July bowers,  
And all of love; and so this tree,—  
O that such our death may be!—  
Died in sleep, and felt no pain,  
To live in happier form again:  
From which, beneath Heaven's fairest star,  
The artist wrought this loved Guitar,  
And taught it justly to reply,  
To all who question skilfully,  
In language gentle as thine own;  
Whispering in enamoured tone  
Sweet oracles of woods and dells,  
And summer winds in sylvan cells;  
For it had learned all harmonies  
Of the plains and of the skies,  
Of the forests and the mountains,  
And the many-voicèd fountains;  
The clearest echoes of the hills,  
The softest notes of falling rills,  
The melodies of birds and bees,  
The murmuring of summer seas,  
And pattering rain, and breathing dew,  
And airs of evening; and it knew



That seldom-heard mysterious sound,  
 Which, driven on its diurnal round,  
 As it floats through boundless day,  
 Our world enkindles on its way.—  
 All this it knows, but will not tell  
 To those who cannot question well  
 The Spirit that inhabits it;  
 It talks according to the wit  
 Of its companions; and no more  
 Is heard than has been felt before,  
 By those who tempt it to betray  
 These secrets of an elder day:  
 But, sweetly as it answers will  
 Flatter hands of perfect skill,  
 It keeps it highest, holiest tone  
 For our beloved Jane alone.

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY.

A SONG FOR ST. CECILIA'S DAY, 1687

**F**ROM harmony, from heavenly harmony,  
 This universal frame began;  
 When Nature underneath a heap  
 Of jarring atoms lay,  
 And could not heave her head  
 The tuneful voice was heard from high,  
 Arise, ye more than dead!  
 Then cold and hot, and moist and dry,  
 In order to their stations leap,  
 And Music's power obey.



From harmony, from heavenly harmony,  
    This universal frame began:  
    From harmony to harmony,  
Through all the compass of the notes it ran,  
    The diapason closing full in man.

What passion cannot Music raise and quell?  
    When Jubal struck the chorded shell,  
    His listening brethren stood around,  
    And, wondering, on their faces fell,  
    To worship that celestial sound.  
Less than a God they thought there could not  
    dwell  
    Within the hollow of that shell,  
    That spoke so sweetly and so well.  
What passion cannot Music raise and quell?

The trumpet's loud clangour  
    Excites us to arms,  
With shrill notes of anger,  
    And mortal alarms.  
The double double double beat  
    Of the thundering drum  
    Cries, Hark! the foes come;  
Charge, charge, 'tis too late to retreat!

The soft complaining flute  
    In dying notes discovers  
    The woes of hopeless lovers,  
Whose dirge is whispered by the warbling lute.



Sharp violins proclaim  
 Their jealous pangs, and desperation,  
 Fury, frantic indignation,  
 Depth of pains and height of passion,  
 For the fair, disdainful dame.  
 But O, what art can teach,  
 What human voice can reach,  
 The sacred organ's praise?  
 Notes inspiring holy love,  
 Notes that wing their heavenly ways  
 To mend the choirs above.

Orpheus could lead the savage race,  
 And trees unrooted left their place,  
 Sequacious of the lyre;  
 But bright Cecilia raised the wonder higher:  
 When to her organ vocal breath was given,  
 An angel heard, and straight appeared  
 Mistaking earth for heaven.

*Grand Chorus*

*As from the power of sacred lays  
 The spheres began to move,  
 And sung the great Creator's praise  
 To all the blessed above;  
 So, when the last and dreadful hour  
 This crumbling pageant shall devour,  
 The trumpet shall be heard on high,  
 The dead shall live, the living die,  
 And Music shall untune the sky.*

JOHN DRYDEN.



ALEXANDER'S FEAST; OR, THE POWER OF  
MUSIC

**I**T WAS at the royal feast, for Persia won  
By Philip's warlike son :  
Aloft in awful state  
The godlike hero sate  
On his imperial throne ;  
His valiant peers were placed around,  
Their brows with roses and with myrtles bound  
(So should desert in arms be crowned) ;  
The lovely Thais, by his side  
Sate like a blooming Eastern bride  
In flower of youth and beauty's pride.  
Happy, happy, happy pair !  
None but the brave,  
None but the brave,  
None but the brave deserves the fair.

*Chorus*

*Happy, happy, happy pair !  
None but the brave,  
None but the brave,  
None but the brave deserves the fair.*

Timotheus, placed on high  
Amid the tuneful choir,  
With flying fingers touched the lyre ;  
The trembling notes ascend the sky,  
And heavenly joys inspire.



The song began from Jove,  
Who left his blissful seats above  
(Such is the power of mighty love).  
A dragon's fiery form belied the god;  
Sublime on radiant spires he rode,  
    When he to fair Olympia pressed,  
    And while he sought her snowy breast;  
Then round her slender waist he curled,  
And stamped an image of himself, a sovereign of  
    the world.

The listening crowd admire the lofty sound.  
A present deity! they shout around;  
A present deity! the vaulted roofs rebound.  
    With ravished ears  
    The monarch hears,  
    Assumes the god,  
    Affects to nod,  
And seems to shake the spheres.

*Chorus*

*With ravished ears  
The monarch hears,  
Assumes the god,  
Affects to nod,  
And seems to shake the spheres.*

[The praise of Bacchus then the sweet musician  
    sung,



Of Bacchus—ever fair and ever young:  
The jolly god in triumph comes;  
Sound the trumpets; beat the drums:  
Flushed with a purple grace  
He shows his honest face:  
Now give the hautboys breath. He comes! he  
comes!  
Bacchus, ever fair and young,  
Drinking joys did first ordain;  
Bacchus' blessings are a treasure,  
Drinking is the soldier's pleasure;  
Rich the treasure,  
Sweet the pleasure,  
Sweet is pleasure after pain.

*Chorus*

*Bacchus' blessings are a treasure,  
Drinking is the soldier's pleasure;  
Rich the treasure,  
Sweet the pleasure,  
Sweet is pleasure after pain.*

Soothed with the sound the king grew vain;  
Fought all his battles o'er again;  
And thrice he routed all his foes, and thrice he  
slew the slain.  
The master saw the madness rise;  
His glowing cheeks, his ardent eyes;  
And, while he heaven and earth defied,



Changed his hand and checked his pride.  
He chose a mournful muse,  
Soft pity to infuse:  
He sung Darius, great and good,  
By too severe a fate,  
Fallen, fallen, fallen, fallen,  
Fallen from his high estate,  
And weltering in his blood;  
Deserted, at his utmost need,  
By those his former bounty fed;  
On the bare earth exposed he lies,  
With not a friend to close his eyes.  
With downcast looks the joyous victor sate,  
Revolving in his altered soul  
The various turns of chance below;  
And, now and then, a sigh he stole;  
And tears began to flow.

*Chorus*

*Revolving in his altered soul  
The various turns of chance below;  
And, now and then, a sigh he stole;  
And tears began to flow.*

The mighty master smiled, to see  
That love was in the next degree;  
'Twas but a kindred sound to move,  
For pity melts the mind to love.  
Softly sweet, in Lydian measures,  
Soon he soothed his soul to pleasures.



War, he sung, is toil and trouble;  
Honour, but an empty bubble;  
Never ending, still beginning,  
Fighting still, and still destroying:  
If the world be worth thy winning,  
Think, O, think it worth enjoying!  
Lovely Thais sits beside thee,  
Take the good the gods provide thee.  
The many rend the skies with loud applause;  
So Love was crowned, but Music won the cause.  
The prince, unable to conceal his pain,  
Gazed on the fair  
Who caused his care,  
And sighed and looked, sighed and looked,  
Sighed and looked, and sighed again:  
At length, with love and wine at once oppressed,  
The vanquished victor sunk upon her breast.

*Chorus*

*The prince, unable to conceal his pain,  
Gazed on the fair  
Who caused his care,  
And sighed and looked, sighed and looked.  
Sighed and looked, and sighed again:  
At length, with love and wine at once oppressed,  
The vanquished victor sunk upon her breast.*

Now strike the golden lyre again;  
A louder yet, and yet a louder strain.  
Break his bands of sleep asunder,  
And rouse him, like a rattling peal of thunder.



Hark, hark, the horrid sound  
Has raised up his head;  
As awaked from the dead,  
And, amazed he stares around.  
Revenge! revenge! Timotheus cries,  
See the furies arise!  
See the snakes that they rear,  
How they hiss in their hair,  
And the sparkles that flash from their eyes!  
Behold a ghastly band,  
Each a torch in his hand!  
Those are Grecian ghosts, that in battle were  
slain,  
And unburied remain,  
Inglorious on the plain:  
Give the vengeance due  
To the valiant crew.  
Behold how they toss their torches on high,  
How they point to the Persian abodes,  
And glittering temples of their hostile gods!  
The princes applaud with a furious joy;  
And the king seized a flambeau with zeal to de-  
stroy:  
Thais led the way,  
To light him to his prey,  
And, like another Helen, fired another Troy!

*Chorus*

*And the king seized a flambeau with zeal to  
destroy:*



*Thais led the way,  
To light him to his prey,  
And, like another Helen, fired another Troy!*

Thus long ago,  
Ere heaving bellows learned to blow,  
While organs yet were mute;  
Timotheus, to his breathing flute,  
And sounding lyre,  
Could swell the soul to rage, or kindle soft desire.  
At last divine Cecilia came,  
Inventress of the vocal frame;  
The sweet enthusiast, from her sacred store,  
Enlarged the former narrow bounds,  
And added length to solemn sounds,  
With nature's mother-wit, and arts unknown before.  
Let old Timotheus yield the prize,  
Or both divide the crown;  
He raised a mortal to the skies,  
She drew an angel down.

*Grand Chorus*

*At last divine Cecilia came,  
Inventress of the vocal frame;  
The sweet enthusiast, from her sacred store,  
Enlarged the former narrow bounds,  
And added length to solemn sounds,  
With nature's mother-wit, and arts unknown before.*



*Let old Timotheus yield the prize,  
Or both divide the crown;  
He raised a mortal to the skies,  
She drew an angel down.*

JOHN DRYDEN.

"UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE"

UNDER the greenwood tree,  
Who loves to lie with me,  
And tune his merry note  
Unto the sweet bird's throat,  
Come hither, come hither, come hither:  
Here shall he see  
No enemy  
But winter and rough weather.

Who doth ambition shun,  
And loves to live i' the sun,  
Seeking the food he eats,  
And pleased with what he gets,  
Come hither, come hither, come hither:  
Here shall he see  
No enemy  
But winter and rough weather.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

"BLOW, BLOW, THOU WINTER WIND"

BLOW, blow, thou winter wind,  
Thou art not so unkind  
As man's ingratitude;



Thy tooth is not so keen,  
Because thou art not seen,  
Although thy breath be rude.

Heigh ho! sing, heigh ho! unto the green holly:  
Most friendship is feigning, most loving is folly:  
Then heigh ho, the holly!  
This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,  
That dost not bite so nigh  
As benefits forgot:  
Though thou the waters warp,  
Thy sting is not so sharp  
As friend remember'd not.

Heigh ho! sing, heigh ho! unto the green holly:  
Most friendship is feigning, most loving is folly:  
Then heigh ho, the holly!  
This life is most jolly.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

#### TO A LOUSE

*On seeing one on a lady's bonnet at church*

**H**A! WH'ARE ye gaun, ye crowlin' ferlie!  
Your impudence protects you sairly:  
I canna say but ye strunt rarely,  
Owre gauze and lace;



Tho' faith! I fear ye dine but sparely  
On sic a place.

Ye ugly, creepin', blastit wonner,  
Detested, shunned by saunt an' sinner!  
How dare ye set your fit upon her,  
Sae fine a lady?  
Gae somewhere else, and seek your dinner  
On some poor body.

Swith, in some beggar's haffet squattle;  
There ye may creep, and sprawl, and sprattle  
Wi' ither kindred jumping cattle,  
In shoals and nations;  
Where horn nor bane ne'er dare unsettle  
Your thick plantations.

Now haud ye there, ye're out o' sight,  
Below the fatt'rels, snug an' tight;  
Na, faith ye yet! ye'll no be right  
Till ye've got on it,  
The very tapmost tow'ring height  
O' Miss's bonnet.

My sooth! right bauld ye set your nose out,  
As plump and grey as onie grozet;  
O for some rank mercurial rozet,  
Or fell red smeddum!  
I'd gie you sic a hearty dose o't,  
Wad dress your droddum!



I wad na been surprised to spy  
 You on an auld wife's flannen toy;  
 Or aiblins some bit duddie boy,  
     On's wyliecoat;  
 But Miss's fine Lunardi! fie,  
     How daur ye do't?

O Jenny, dinna toss your head,  
 An' set your beauties a' abroad!  
 Ye little ken what curséd speed  
     The blastie's makin'!  
 Thae winks and finger-ends, I dread,  
     Are notice takin'!

O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us  
 To see oursels as others see us!  
 It wad frae mony a blunder free us,  
     And foolish notion:  
 What airs in dress an' gait wad lea'e us,  
     And e'en devotion!

ROBERT BURNS.

#### TO A MOUSE

*On Turning Her Up in Her Nest with the Plough*

**W**EE, sleekit, cow'rin', tim'rous beastie,  
 O what a panic's in thy breastie!  
 Thou need na start awa sae hasty,  
     Wi' bickering brattle!



I wad be laith to rin an' chase thee  
Wi' murd'ring pattle!

I'm truly sorry man's dominion  
Has broken nature's social union,  
An' justifies that ill 'opinion  
Which makes thee startle  
At me, thy poor earth-born companion,  
An' fellow-mortal!

I doubt na, whyles, but thou may thieve;  
What then? poor beastie, thou maun live!  
A daimen-icker in a thrave  
'S a sma' request:  
I'll get a blessin' wi the lave,  
And never miss't!

Thy wee bit housie, too, in ruin!  
Its silly wa's the win's are strewin'!  
An' naething, now, to big a new ane,  
O' foggage green!  
An' bleak December's winds ensuin',  
Baith snell an' keen!

Thou saw the fields laid bare and waste,  
An' weary winter comin' fast,  
An' cozie here, beneath the blast,  
Thou thought to dwell,  
Till crash! the cruel coulter past  
Out-thro' thy cell.



That wee bit heap o' leaves an' stibble  
Has cost thee mony a weary nibble!  
Now thou's turned out, for a' thy trouble,  
    But house or hald,  
To thole the winter's sleety dribble,  
    An' cranreuch cauld!

But, Mousie, thou art no thy lane,  
In proving foresight may be vain:  
The best laid schemes o' mice an' men  
    Gang aft a-gley,  
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain  
    For promised joy.

Still thou art blest compared wi' me!  
The present only toucheth thee:  
But oh! I backward cast my e'e  
    On prospects drear!  
An' forward tho' I canna see,  
    I guess an' fear!

ROBERT BURNS.

#### NEW-MADE HONOUR

A FRIEND I met some half-hour since—  
    *"Good-morrow, Jack!"* quoth I;  
The new-made Knight, like any Prince,  
    Frowned, nodded, and passed by;  
When up came Jem—"Sir John, your slave!"



"Ah, James; we dine at eight—  
Fail not—" (low bows the supple knave)

"Don't make my lady wait."

The King can do no wrong? As I'm a sinner,  
He's spoilt an honest tradesman and my dinner.

RICHARD HARRIS BARHAM.

#### EPIGRAM

TO John I owed great obligation;  
But John unhappily thought fit  
To publish it to all the nation,  
Sure John and I are more than quit.

MATTHEW PRIOR.

#### TO SIR ROBERT WALPOLE

GREAT Sir, as on each levée day  
I still attend you—still you say—  
I'm busy now, to-morrow come;  
To-morrow, sir, you're not at home;  
So says your porter, and dare I  
Give such a man as him the lie?

In imitation, sir, of you,  
I keep a mighty levée too:  
Where my attendants, to their sorrow,  
Are bid to come again to-morrow.  
To-morrow they return, no doubt,



But then, like you, sir, I'm gone out.

So says my maid; but they less civil

Give maid and master to the devil;

And then with menaces depart,

Which could you hear would pierce your heart.

Good sir, do make my levée fly me,

Or lend your porter to deny me.

HENRY FIELDING.

TO THOMAS MOORE

A BOAT is on the shore,  
And my bark is on the sea  
But, before I go, Tom Moore,  
Here's a double health to thee!

Here's a sigh to those that love me,  
And a smile to those who hate;  
And, whatever sky's above me,  
Here's a heart for every fate.

Though the ocean roar around me,  
Yet it still shall bear me on;  
Though a desert should surround me,  
It hath springs that may be won.

Were't the last drop in the well,  
As I gasped upon the brink,  
Ere my fainting spirit fell,  
'Tis to thee that I would drink.



With that water, as this wine,  
The libation I would pour  
Should be—peace with thine and mine,  
And a health to thee, Tom Moore.  
LORD BYRON.

## PARTING AT MORNING

**R**OUND the cape of a sudden came the sea,  
And the sun looked over the mountain's  
rim:

And straight was a path of gold for him,  
And the need of a world of men for me.

ROBERT BROWNING.

## TO MY BROTHERS

**S**MALL, busy flames play through the fresh  
laid coals,

And their faint cracklings o'er our silence  
creep

Like whispers of the household gods that keep  
A gentle empire o'er fraternal souls.

And while, for rhymes, I search around the poles,

Your eyes are fix'd, as in poetic sleep,

Upon the lore so voluble and deep,

That aye at fall of night our care condoles.

This is your birth-day, Tom, and I rejoice

That thus it passes smoothly, quietly.



Many such eves of gently whisp'ring noise  
May we together pass, and calmly try  
What are this world's true joys,—ere the great  
voice,  
From its fair face, shall bide our spirits fly.  
JOHN KEATS.

## MEMORY

O MEMORY, thou fond deceiver,  
Still importunate and vain,  
To former joys recurring ever,  
And turning all the past to pain:

Thou, like the world, th' oppress'd oppressing,  
Thy smiles increase the wretch's woe:  
And he who wants each other blessing  
In thee must ever find a foe.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

## HOME-THOUGHTS, FROM ABROAD

O H, to be in England  
Now that April's there,  
And whoever wakes in England  
Sees, some morning, unaware,  
That the lowest boughs and the brush-wood sheaf  
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,  
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough  
In England—now!  
And after April, when May follows,



And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!  
Hark, where my blossomed pear-tree in the hedge  
Leans to the field and scatters on the clover  
Blossoms and dewdrops—at the bent spray's  
edge—

That's the wise thrush; he sings each song  
twice over,  
Lest you should think he never could recapture  
The first fine careless rapture!  
And though the fields look rough with hoary  
dew,

All will be gay when noontide wakes anew  
The buttercups, the little children's dower  
—Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower!

ROBERT BROWNING.

THE OLD VICARAGE, GRANTCHESTER \*

(*Café des Westens, Berlin, May 1912*)

JUST now the lilac is in bloom,  
All before my little room;  
And in my flower-beds, I think,  
Smile the carnation and the pink;  
And down the borders, well I know,  
The poppy and the pansy blow . . .  
Oh! there the chestnuts, summer through,  
Beside the river make for you

\* Reprinted, by permission of the publishers, Dodd, Mead and Co., from *Collected Poems*, by Rupert Brooke.



A tunnel of green gloom, and sleep  
 Deeply above; and green and deep  
 The stream mysterious glides beneath,  
 Green as a dream and deep as death.  
 —Oh, damn! I know it! and I know  
 How the May fields all golden show,  
 And when the day is young and sweet,  
 Gild gloriously the bare feet  
 That run to bathe . . .

*Du lieber Gott!*

Here am I, sweating, sick, and hot,  
 And there the shadowed waters fresh  
 Lean up to embrace the naked flesh.  
*Temperamentvoll* German Jews  
 Drink beer around;—and *there* the dew  
 Are soft beneath a morn of gold.  
 Here tulips bloom as they are told;  
 Unkempt about those hedges blows  
 An English unofficial rose;  
 And there the unregulated sun  
 Slopes down to rest when day is done,  
 And wakes a vague unpunctual star,  
 A slippered Hesper; and there are  
 Meads towards Haslingfield and Coton  
 Where *das Betreten's* not *verboten*.

*εἴθε γενοίμην* . . . would I were  
 In Grantchester, in Grantchester!—



Some, it may be, can get in touch  
With Nature there, or Earth, or such.  
And clever modern men have seen  
A Faun a-peeping through the green,  
And felt the Classics were not dead,  
To glimpse a Naiad's reedy head,  
Or hear the Goat-foot piping low: . . .  
But these are things I do not know.  
I only know that you may lie  
Day long and watch the Cambridge sky,  
And, flower-lulled in sleepy grass,  
Hear the cool lapse of hours pass,  
Until the centuries blend and blur  
In Grantchester, in Grantchester. . . .  
Still in the dawnlit waters cool  
His ghostly Lordship swims his pool,  
And tries the strokes, essays the tricks,  
Long learnt on Hellespont, or Styx.  
Dan Chaucer hears his river still  
Chatter beneath a phantom mill.  
Tennyson notes, with studious eye,  
How Cambridge waters hurry by . . .  
And in that garden, black and white,  
Creep whispers through the grass all night;  
And spectral dance, before the dawn,  
A hundred Vicars down the lawn;  
Curates, long dust, will come and go  
On lissom, clerical, printless toe;



And oft between the boughs is seen  
The sly shade of a Rural Dean . . .  
Till, at a shiver in the skies,  
Vanishing with Satanic cries,  
The prim ecclesiastic rout  
Leaves but a startled sleeper-out,  
Grey heavens, the first bird's drowsy calls,  
The falling house that never falls.

God! I will pack, and take a train,  
And get me to England once again!  
For England's the one land, I know,  
Where men with Splendid Hearts may go;  
And Cambridgeshire, of all England,  
The shire for Men who Understand;  
And of *that* district I prefer  
The lovely hamlet Grantchester.  
For Cambridge people rarely smile,  
Being urban, squat, and packed with guile;  
And Royston men in the far South  
Are black and fierce and strange of mouth;  
At Over they fling oaths at one,  
And worse than oaths at Trumpington,  
And Ditton girls are mean and dirty,  
And there's none in Harston under thirty,  
And folks in Shelford and those parts  
Have twisted lips and twisted hearts,  
And Barton men make Cockney rhymes,  
And Coton's full of nameless crimes,  
And things are done you'd not believe



At Madingley on Christmas Eve.  
 Strong men have run for miles and miles,  
 When one from Cherry Hinton smiles;  
 Strong men have blanched, and shot their wives,  
 Rather than send them to St. Ives;  
 Strong men have cried like babes, bydam,  
 To hear what happened at Babraham.  
 But Grantchester! ah, Grantchester!  
 There's peace and holy quiet there,  
 Great clouds along pacific skies.  
 And men and women with straight eyes,  
 Lithe children lovelier than a dream,  
 A bosky wood, a slumbrous stream,  
 And little kindly winds that creep  
 Round twilight corners, half asleep.  
 In Grantchester their skins are white;  
 They bathe by day, they bathe by night;  
 The women there do all they ought;  
 The men observe the Rules of Thought.  
 They love the Good; they worship Truth;  
 They laugh unroariously in youth;  
 (And when they get to feeling old,  
 They up and shoot themselves, I'm told) . . .

Ah God! to see the branches stir  
 Across the moon at Grantchester!  
 To smell the thrilling-sweet and rotten  
 Unforgettable, unforgotten  
 River-smell, and hear the breeze  
 Sobbing in the little trees.



Say, do the elm-clumps greatly stand  
Still guardians of that holy land?  
The chestnuts shade, in reverend dream,  
The yet unacademic stream?  
Is dawn a secret shy and cold  
Anadyomene, silver-gold?  
And sunset still a golden sea  
From Haslingfield to Madingley?  
And after, ere the night is born,  
Do hares come out about the corn?  
Oh, is the water sweet and cool,  
Gentle and brown, above the pool?  
And laughs the immortal river still  
Under the mill, under the mill?  
Say, is there Beauty yet to find?  
And Certainty? and Quiet kind?  
Deep meadows yet, for to forget  
The lies, and truths, and pain? . . . oh! yet  
Stands the Church clock at ten to three?  
And is there honey still for tea?

RUPERT BROOKE.

#### MY HEART'S IN THE HIGHLANDS

**M**Y heart 's in the Highlands, my heart is  
not here;  
My heart 's in the Highlands a-chasing the deer;  
A-chasing the wild deer, and' following the roe,  
My heart 's in the Highlands, wherever I go.



Farewell to the Highlands, farewell to the  
North,  
The birth-place of valour, the country of worth;  
Wherever I wander, wherever I rove,  
The hills of the Highlands for ever I love.

Farewell to the mountains high cover'd with  
snow;  
Farewell to the straths and green valleys below;  
Farewell to the forests and wild-hanging woods;  
Farewell to the torrents and loud-pouring floods!  
My heart 's in the Highlands, my heart is not  
here,  
My heart 's in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer:  
A-chasing the wild deer, and following the roe,  
My heart 's in the Highlands, wherever I go.

ROBERT BURNS.

### MY LOST YOUTH

OFTEN I think of the beautiful town  
That is seated by the sea;  
Often in thought go up and down  
The pleasant streets of that dear old town,  
And my youth comes back to me.  
And a verse of a Lapland song  
Is haunting my memory still:  
"A boy's will is the wind's will,  
And the thoughts of youth are long, long  
thoughts."



I can see the shadowy lines of its trees,  
And catch, in sudden gleams,  
The sheen of the far-surrounding seas,  
And islands that were the Hesperides  
Of all my boyish dreams.  
And the burden of that old song,  
It murmurs and whispers still:  
"A boy's will is the wind's will,  
And the thoughts of youth are long, long  
thoughts."

I remember the black wharves and the slips,  
And the sea-tides tossing free;  
And Spanish sailors with bearded lips,  
And the beauty and mystery of the ships,  
And the magic of the sea.  
And the voice of that wayward song  
Is singing and saying still:  
"A boy's will is the wind's will,  
And the thoughts of youth are long, long  
thoughts."

I remember the bulwarks by the shore,  
And the fort upon the hill;  
The sunrise gun with its hollow roar,  
The drum-beat repeated o'er and o'er,  
And the bugle wild and shrill.  
And the music of that old song  
Throbs in my memory still:  
"A boy's will is the wind's will,



And the thoughts of youth are long, long  
thoughts."

I remember the sea-fight, far away,  
How it thunder'd o'er the tide!  
And the dead sea-captains, as they lay  
In their graves o'erlooking the tranquil bay  
Where they in battle died.  
And the sound of that mournful song  
Goes through me with a thrill:  
"A boy's will is the wind's will,  
And the thoughts of youth are long, long  
thoughts."

I can see the breezy dome of groves,  
The shadows of Deering's woods;  
And the friendships old and the early loves  
Come back with a Sabbath sound, as of doves  
In quiet neighbourhoods.  
And the verse of that sweet old song,  
It flutters and murmurs still:  
"A boy's will is the wind's will,  
And the thoughts of youth are long, long  
thoughts."

I remember the gleams and glooms that dart  
Across the schoolboy's brain;  
The song and the silence in the heart,  
That in part are prophecies, and in part  
Are longings wild and vain.



And the voice of that fitful song  
Sings on, and is never still:  
"A boy's will is the wind's will,  
And the thoughts of youth are long, long  
thoughts."

There are things of which I may not speak;  
There are dreams that cannot die;  
There are thoughts that make the strong heart  
weak,  
And bring a pallor into the cheek,  
And a mist before the eye.  
And the words of that fatal song  
Come over me like a chill:  
"A boy's will is the wind's will,  
And the thoughts of youth are long, long  
thoughts."

Strange to me now are the forms I meet  
When I visit the dear old town;  
But the native air is pure and sweet,  
And the trees that o'ershadow each well-known  
street,  
As they balance up and down,  
Are singing the beautiful song,  
Are sighing and whispering still:  
"A boy's will is the wind's will,  
And the thoughts of youth are long, long  
thoughts."



And Deering's woods are fresh and fair,  
And with joy that is almost pain  
My heart goes back to wander there,  
And among the dreams of the days that were  
I find my lost youth again.  
And the strange and beautiful song,  
The groves are repeating it still:  
"A boy's will is the wind's will,  
And the thoughts of youth are long, long  
thoughts."

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW.

### MY SISTER'S SLEEP

SHE fell asleep on Christmas Eve:  
At length the long-ungranted shade  
Of weary eyelids overweigh'd  
The pain nought else might yet relieve.

Our mother, who had leaned all day  
Over the bed from chime to chime,  
Then raised herself for the first time,  
And as she sat her down, did pray.

Her little work-table was spread  
With work to finish. For the glare  
Made by her candle, she had care  
To work some distance from the bed.



Without, there was a cold moon up,  
Of winter radiance sheer and thin;  
The hollow halo it was in  
Was like an icy crystal cup.

Through the small room, with subtle sound  
Of flame, by vents the fireshine drove  
And reddened. In its dim alcove  
The mirror shed a clearness round.

I had been sitting up some nights,  
And my tired mind felt weak and blank;  
Like a sharp strengthening wine it drank  
The stillness and the broken lights.

Twelve struck. That sound, by dwindling years  
Heard in each hour, crept off; and then  
The ruffled silence spread again,  
Like water that a pebble stirs.

Our mother rose from where she sat:  
Her needles, as she laid them down,  
Met lightly, and her silken gown  
Settled: no other noise than that.

"Glory unto the Newly Born!"  
So, as said angels, she did say;  
Because we were in Christmas Day,  
Though it would still be long till morn.



Just then in the room over us  
There was a pushing back of chairs,  
As some who had sat unawares  
So late, now heard the hour, and rose.

With anxious softly-stepping haste  
Our mother went where Margaret lay,  
Fearing the sounds o'erhead—should they  
Have broken her long watched-for rest!

She stooped an instant, calm, and turned;  
But suddenly turned back again;  
And all her features seemed in pain  
With woe, and her eyes gazed and yearned.

For my part, I but hid my face,  
And held my breath, and spoke no word:  
There was none spoken; but I heard  
The silence for a little space.

Our mother bowed herself and wept:  
And both my arms fell, and I said,  
"God knows I knew that she was dead."  
And there, all white, my sister slept.

Then kneeling, upon Christmas morn  
A little after twelve o'clock,  
We said, ere the first quarter struck,  
"Christ's blessing on the newly born!"

DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI.



## "BY NIGHT WE LINGERED ON THE LAWN"

## XCV

**B**Y night we lingered on the lawn,  
For underfoot the herb was dry;  
And genial warmth; and o'er the sky  
The silvery haze of summer drawn;

And calm that let the tapers burn  
Unwavering: not a cricket chirred;  
The brook alone far-off was heard,  
And on the board the fluttering urn.

And bats went round in fragrant skies,  
And wheeled or lit the filmy shapes  
That haunt the dusk, with ermine capes  
And woolly breasts and beaded eyes;

While now we sang old songs that pealed  
From knoll to knoll, where, couched at ease,  
The white kine glimmered, and the trees  
Laid their dark arms about the field.

But when those others, one by one,  
Withdrew themselves from me and night,  
And in the house light after light  
Went out, and I was all alone.

A hunger seized my heart; I read  
Of that glad year which once had been



In those fallen leaves which kept their green,  
The noble letters of the dead.

And strangely on the silence broke  
The silent-speaking words, and strange  
Was love's dumb cry defying change  
To test his worth; and strangely spoke

The faith, the vigour, bold to dwell  
On doubts that drive the coward back,  
And keen through wordy snares to track  
Suggestion to her inmost cell.

So word by word, and line by line,  
The dead men touched me from the past,  
And all at once it seemed at last  
The living soul was flashed on mine,

And mine in this was wound, and whirled  
About empyreal heights of thought,  
And came on that which is, and caught  
The deep pulsations of the world,

Æonian music measuring out  
The steps of Time—the shocks of Chance—  
The blows of Death. At length my trance  
Was cancelled, stricken through with doubt.

Vague words! but ah, how hard to frame  
In matter-molded forms of speech,



Or even for intellect to reach  
Through memory that which I became;

Till now the doubtful dusk revealed  
The knolls once more where, couched at ease,  
The white kine glimmered, and the trees  
Laid their dark arms about the field;

And sucked from out the distant gloom  
A breeze began to tremble o'er  
The large leaves of the sycamore,  
And fluctuate all the still perfume,

And gathering fresher overhead,  
Rocked the full-foliaged elms, and swung  
The heavy-folded rose, and flung  
The lilies to and fro, and said,

"The dawn, the dawn," and died away;  
And East and West, without a breath,  
Mixed their dim lights, like life and death,  
To broaden into boundless day.

From "In Memoriam" by  
LORD TENNYSON.

#### ABSENCE

**H**ERE, ever since you went abroad,  
If there be change, no change I see:



I only walk our wonted road,  
The road is only walk'd by me.

Yes; I forgot; a change there is—  
Was it of *that* you bade me tell?  
I catch at times, at times I miss  
The sight, the tone, I know so well.

WALTER SAVAGE LANDON.

#### THE OLD FAMILIAR FACES

I HAVE had playmates, I have had companions,  
In my days of childhood, in my joyful school-days—  
All, all are gone, the old familiar faces.

I have been laughing, I have been carousing,  
Drinking late, sitting late, with my bosom cronies—  
All, all are gone, the old familiar faces.

I loved a Love once, fairest among women:  
Closed are her doors on me, I must not see her—  
All, all are gone, the old familiar faces.

I have a friend, a kinder friend has no man:  
Like an ingrate, I left my friend abruptly;  
Left him, to muse on the old familiar faces.



Ghost-like I paced round the haunts of my  
childhood,

Earth seem'd a desert I was bound to traverse,  
Seeking to find the old familiar faces.

Friend of my bosom, thou more than a brother,  
Why wert not thou born in my father's dwell-  
ing?

So might we talk of the old familiar faces—

How some they have died, and some they have  
left me,

And some are taken from me; all are departed—  
All, all are gone, the old familiar faces.

CHARLES LAMB.

### TEARS, IDLE TEARS

**T**EARs, idle tears, I know not what they  
mean,

Tears from the depth of some divine despair  
Rise in the heart, and gather to the eyes,  
In looking on the happy Autumn-fields,  
And thinking of the days that are no more.

Fresh as the first beam glittering on a sail,  
That brings our friends up from the underworld,  
Sad as the last which reddens over one  
That sinks with all we love below the verge;  
So sad, so fresh, the days that are no more.



Ah, sad and strange as in dark summer dawns  
The earliest pipe of half-awaken'd birds  
To dying ears, when unto dying eyes  
The casement slowly grows a glimmering square;  
So sad, so strange, the days that are no more.

Dear as remember'd kisses after death,  
And sweet as those by hopeless fancy feign'd  
On lips that are for others; deep as love,  
Deep as first love, and wild with all regret;  
O Death in Life, the days that are no more!  
LORD TENNYSON.

"ON WENLOCK EDGE THE WOOD'S IN  
TROUBLE"

ON Wenlock Edge the wood's in trouble;  
His forest fleece the Wrekin heaves;  
The gale, it plies the saplings double,  
And thick on Severn snow the leaves.

'Twould blow like this through holt and hanger  
When Uricon the city stood:  
'Tis the old wind in the old anger,  
But then it threshed another wood.

Then, 'twas before my time, the Roman  
At yonder heaving hill would stare:  
The blood that warms an English yeoman,  
The thoughts that hurt him, they were there.



There, like the wind through woods in riot,  
Through him the gale of life blew high;  
The tree of man was never quiet;  
Then 'twas the Roman, now 'tis I.

The gale, it plies the saplings double,  
It blows so hard, 'twill soon be gone:  
To-day the Roman and his trouble  
Are ashes under Uricon.

A. E. HOUSMAN.

#### THE SOLITARY REAPER

**B**EHOLD her, single in the field,  
Yon solitary Highland Lass!  
Reaping and singing by herself;  
Stop here, or gently pass!  
Alone she cuts and binds the grain,  
And sings a melancholy strain;  
O listen! for the Vale profound  
Is overflowing with the sound.

No Nightingale did ever chaunt  
More welcome notes to weary bands  
Of travellers in some shady haunt,  
Among Arabian sands:  
A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard  
In spring-time from the Cuckoo-bird,  
Breaking the silence of the seas  
Among the farthest Hebrides.



Will no one tell me what she sings?—  
Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow  
For old, unhappy, far-off things,  
And battles long ago:  
Or is it some more humble lay,  
Familiar matter of to-day?  
Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain,  
That has been, and may be again?

Whate'er the theme, the maiden sang  
As if her song could have no ending;  
I saw her singing at her work,  
And o'er the sickle bending;—  
I listened, motionless and still;  
And, as I mounted up the hill  
The music in my heart I bore,  
Long after it was heard no more.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

## ODE TO A NIGHTINGALE

**M**Y heart aches, and a drowsy numbness  
pains  
My sense, as though of hemlock I had  
drunk,  
Or emptied some dull opiate to the drains  
One minute past, and Lethe-wards had sunk:  
'Tis not through envy of thy happy lot,  
But being too happy in thy happiness,



That thou, light-wingèd Dryad of the trees,  
In some melodious plot  
Of beechen green, and shadows numberless,  
Singest of summer in full-throated ease.

O for a draught of vintage! that hath been  
Cool'd a long age in the deep-delvèd earth,  
Tasting of Flora and the country-green,  
Dance, and Provençal song, and sunburnt  
mirth!

O for a beaker full of the warm South!  
Full of the true, the blushful Hippocrene,  
With beaded bubbles winking at the brim,  
And purple-stainèd mouth;  
That I might drink, and leave the world un-  
seen,  
And with thee fade away into the forest  
dim:

Fade far away, dissolve, and quite forget  
What thou among the leaves hast never  
known,  
The weariness, the fever, and the fret  
Here, where men sit and hear each other  
groan;  
Where palsy shakes a few, sad, last grey hairs,  
Where youth grows pale, and spectre-thin, and  
dies;  
Where but to think is to be full of sorrow



And leaden-eyed despairs;  
Where beauty cannot keep her lustrous eyes,  
Or new Love pine at them beyond to-  
morrow.

Away! away! for I will fly to thee,  
Not charioted by Bacchus and his pards,  
But on the viewless wings of Poesy,  
Though the dull brain perplexes and retards:  
Already with thee! tender is the night,  
And haply the Queen-Moon is on her throne,  
Cluster'd around by all her starry Fays  
But here there is no light,  
Save what from heaven is with the breezes  
blown  
Through verdurous glooms and winding  
mossy ways.

I cannot see what flowers are at my feet,  
Nor what soft incense hangs upon the boughs,  
But, in embalmèd darkness, guess each sweet  
Wherewith the seasonable month endows  
The grass, the thicket, and the fruit-tree wild;  
White hawthorn, and the pastoral eglantine;  
Fast-fading violets cover'd up in leaves;  
And mid-May's eldest child,  
The coming musk-rose, full of dewy wine,  
The murmurous haunt of flies on summer  
eves.



Darkling I listen; and for many a time

I have been half in love with easeful Death,  
Call'd him soft names in many a musèd rhyme,

To take into the air my quiet breath;

Now more than ever seems it rich to die,

To cease upon the midnight with no pain,

While thou art pouring forth thy soul  
abroad

In such an ecstasy!

Still wouldst thou sing, and I have ears in  
vain—

To thy high requiem become a sod.

Thou wast not born for death, immortal Bird!

No hungry generations tread thee down;

The voice I hear this passing night was heard

In ancient days by emperor and clown:

Perhaps the self-same song that found a path

Through the sad heart of Ruth, when, sick for  
home,

She stood in tears amid the alien corn;

The same that ofttimes hath

Charm'd magic casements, opening on the  
foam

Of perilous seas, in faery lands forlorn.

Forlorn! the very word is like a bell

To toll me back from thee to my sole self!

Adieu! the fancy cannot cheat so well

As she is fabled to do, deceiving elf.



Adieu! adieu! thy plaintive anthem fades  
Past the near meadows, over the still stream,  
Up the hill-side; and now 'tis buried deep  
In the next valley-glades:  
Was it a vision, or a waking dream?  
Fled is that music:—do I wake or sleep?  
JOHN KEATS.

## THE BALLAD OF DEAD LADIES

**T**ELL me now in what hidden way is  
Lady Flora, the lovely Roman?  
Where's Hipparchia, and where is Thais,  
Neither of them the fairer woman?  
Where is Echo, beheld of no man,  
Only heard on river and mere,—  
She whose beauty was more than human? . . .  
But where are the snows of yester-year?

Where's Héloïse, the learned nun,  
For whose sake Abeillard, I ween,  
Lost manhood and put priesthood on?  
(From love he won such dule and teen!)  
And where, I pray you, is the Queen  
Who will that Buridan should steer  
Sewed in a sack's mouth down the Seine? . . .  
But where are the snows of yester-year?



White Queen Blanche, like a queen of lilies,  
 With a voice like any mermaiden—  
 Bertha Broadfoot, Beatrice, Alice,  
 And Ermengarde the lady of Maine,—  
 And that good Joan whom Englishmen  
 At Rouen doomed and burned her there,—  
 Mother of God, where are they then? . .  
 But where are the snows of yester-year?

Nay, never ask this week, fair lord,  
 Where they are gone, nor yet this year,  
 Except with this for an overword—  
 But where are the snows of yester-year?  
 Translated from the French  
 of FRANÇOIS VILLON by  
 DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI.

#### LAMENT FOR THE MAKERS

**I** THAT in heill was and gladnèss  
 Am trublit now with great sickness  
 And feblit with infirmitie:—  
*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

Our plesance here is all vain glory,  
 This fals world is but transitory,  
 The flesh is bruckle, the Feynd is slee:—  
*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*



The state of man does change and vary,  
Now sound, now sick, now blyth, now sary,  
Now dansand mirry, now like to die:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

No state in Erd here standis sicker;  
As with the wynd wavis the wicker  
So wannis this world's vanitie:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

Unto the Death gois all Estatis,  
Princis, Prelatis, and Potestatis,  
Baith rich and poor of all degree:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

He takis the knichtis in to the field  
Enarmit under helm and scheild;  
Victor he is at all mellie:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

That strong unmerciful tyrand  
Takis, on the motheris breast sowkand,  
The babe full of benignitie:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

He takis the campion in the stour,  
The captain closit in the tour,  
The lady in bour full of bewtie:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*



He spairis no lord for his piscence,  
Na clerk for his intelligence;  
His awful straik may no man flee:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

Art-magicianis and astrologgis,  
Rethoris, logicianis, and theologgis,  
Them helpis no conclusionis slee:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

In medecine the most practicianis,  
Leechis, surrigianis, and physicianis,  
Themsell from Death may not supplee:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

I see that makaris amang the lave  
Playis here their padyanis, syne gois to grave;  
Sparit is nocht their facultie:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

He has done petuously devour  
The noble Chaucer, of makaris flour,  
The Monk of Bury, and Gower, all three:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

The good Sir Hew of Eglintoun,  
Ettrick, Heriot, and Wintoun,  
He has tane out of this cuntrie:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*



That scorpion fell has done infeck  
Maister John Clerk, and James Afflek,  
Fra ballat-making and tragedie:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

Holland and Barbour he has berevit;  
Alas! that he not with us levit  
Sir Mungo Lockart of the Lee:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

Clerk of Tranent eke he has tane,  
That made the anteris of Gawaine;  
Sir Gilbert Hay endit has he:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

He has Blind Harry and Sandy Traill  
Slain with his schour of mortal hail,  
Quhilk Patrick Johnstoun might nought flee:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

He has reft Merseir his endite,  
That did in luv so lively write,  
So short, so quick, of sentence hie:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

He has tane Rowll of Aberdene,  
And gentill Rowll of Corstorphine;  
Two better fallowis did no man see:—

*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*



In Dunfermline he has tane Broun  
 With Maister Robert Henrysoun;  
 Sir John the Ross enbrast has he:—  
*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

And he has now tane, last of a,  
 Good gentil Stobo and Quintin Shaw,  
 Of quhom all wichtis hes pitie:—  
*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

Good Maister Walter Kennedy  
 In point of Death lies verily;  
 Great ruth it were that so suld be:—  
*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

Sen he has all my brether tane,  
 He will naught let me live alane;  
 Of force I man his next prey be:—  
*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

Since for the Death remeid is nonē,  
 Best is that we for Death dispone,  
 After our death that live may we:—  
*Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

WILLIAM DUNBAR.

#### FIDELE

**F**EAR no more the heat o' the sun,  
 Nor the furious winter's rages;



Thou thy worldly task hast done,  
Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages:  
Golden lads and girls all must,  
As chimney-sweepers, come to dust.

Fear no more the frown o' the great,  
Thou art past the tyrant's stroke;  
Care no more to clothe and eat;  
To thee the reed is as the oak:  
The sceptre, learning, physic, must  
All follow this, and come to dust.

Fear no more the lightning-flash,  
Nor the all-dreaded thunder-stone;  
Fear not slander, censure rash;  
Thou hast finish'd joy and moan:  
All lovers young, all lovers must  
Consign to thee, and come to dust.

No exorciser harm thee!  
Nor no witchcraft charm thee!  
Ghost unlaid forbear thee!  
Nothing ill come near thee!  
Quiet consummation have;  
And renownèd be thy grave!

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

## DEATH THE LEVELLER

**T**HE glories of our blood and state  
Are shadows, not substantial things;  
There is no armour against Fate;



Death lays his icy hand on kings:  
Sceptre and Crown  
Must tumble down,  
And in the dust be equal made  
With the poor crookèd scythe and spade.

Some men with swords may reap the field,  
And plant fresh laurels where they kill:  
But their strong nerves at last must yield;  
They tame but one another still:  
Early or late  
They stoop to fate,  
And must give up their murmuring breath  
When they, pale captives, creep to death.

The garlands wither on your brow;  
Then boast no more your mighty deeds!  
Upon Death's purple altar now  
See where the victor-victim bleeds.  
Your heads must come  
To the cold tomb:  
Only the actions of the just  
Smell sweet and blossom in their dust.

JAMES SHIRLEY.

ELEGY WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY CHURCH-  
YARD

**T**HE curfew tolls the knell of parting day,  
The lowing herd wind slowly o'er the lea,  
The plowman homeward plods his weary way,  
And leaves the world to darkness and to me.



Now fades the glimmering landscape on the sight,  
And all the air a solemn stillness holds,  
Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight,  
And drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds;

Save that from yonder ivy-mantled tow'r  
The moping owl does to the moon complain  
Of such as, wand'ring near her secret bow'r,  
Molest her ancient solitary reign.

Beneath those rugged elms, that yew-tree's shade,  
Where heaves the turf in many a mould'ring  
heap,  
Each in his narrow cell for ever laid,  
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.

The breezy call of incense-breathing morn,  
The swallow twitt'ring from the straw-built  
shed,  
The cock's shrill clarion, or the echoing horn,  
No more shall rouse them from their lowly  
bed.

For them no more the blazing hearth shall burn,  
Or busy housewife ply her evening care;  
No children run to lisp their sire's return,  
Or climb his knees the envied kiss to share.

Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield,  
Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe has broke;



How jocund did they drive their team afield!  
How bow'd the woods beneath their sturdy  
stroke!

Let not Ambition mock their useful toil,  
Their homely joys, and destiny obscure;  
Nor Grandeur hear with a disdainful smile  
The short and simple annals of the poor.

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of pow'r,  
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,  
Await alike th' inevitable hour:  
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Nor you, ye proud, impute to these the fault,  
If Memory o'er their tomb no trophies raise,  
Where through the long-drawn aisle and fretted  
vault  
The pealing anthem swells the note of praise.

Can storied urn or animated bust  
Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath?  
Can Honour's voice provoke the silent dust,  
Or Flatt'ry soothe the dull cold ear of Death?

Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid  
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire;  
Hands, that the rod of empire might have sway'd,  
Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre.



But Knowledge to their eyes her ample page  
 Rich with the spoils of time did ne'er unroll;  
 Chill Penury repress'd their noble rage,  
 And froze the genial current of the soul.

Full many a gem of purest ray serene  
 The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear;  
 Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,  
 And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

Some village Hampden that with dauntless  
 breast  
 The little tyrant of his fields withstood;  
 Some mute inglorious Milton here may rest,  
 Some Cromwell guiltless of his country's  
 blood.

Th' applause of list'ning senates to command,  
 The threats of pain and ruin to despise,  
 To scatter plenty o'er a smiling land,  
 And read their history in a nation's eyes,—

Their lot forbade: nor circumscribed alone  
 Their growing virtues, but their crimes con-  
 fined;  
 Forbade to wade thro' slaughter to a throne.  
 And shut the gates of mercy on mankind.

The struggling pangs of conscious truth to hide,  
 To quench the blushes of ingenuous shame,



Or heap the shrine of Luxury and Pride  
With incense kindled at the Muse's flame.

Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife  
Their sober wishes never learn'd to stray;  
Along the cool, sequester'd vale of life  
They kept the noiseless tenor of their way.

Yet ev'n these bones from insult to protect  
Some frail memorial still erected nigh,  
With uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculpture  
deck'd,  
Implores the passing tribute of a sigh.

Their name, their years, spelt by th' unletter'd  
Muse,  
The place of fame and elegy supply;  
And many a holy text around she strews,  
That teach the rustic moralist to die.

For who, to dumb Forgetfulness a prey,  
This pleasing anxious being e'er resign'd,  
Left the warm precincts of the cheerful day,  
Nor cast one longing ling'ring look behind?

On some fond breast the parting soul relies,  
Some pious drops the closing eye requires;  
E'en from the tomb the voice of Nature cries,  
E'en in our ashes live their wonted fires.



For thee, who, mindful of th' unhonour'd dead,  
 Dost in these lines their artless tale relate;  
 If chance, by lonely contemplation led,  
 Some kindred spirit shall inquire thy fate,—

Haply some hoary-headed swain may say,  
 "Oft have we seen him at the peep of dawn  
 Brushing with hasty steps the dew away  
 To meet the sun upon the upland lawn.

"There at the foot of yonder nodding beech  
 That wreathes its old fantastic roots so high,  
 His listless length at noontide would he stretch,  
 And pore upon the brook that babbles by.

"Hard by yon wood, now smiling as in scorn,  
 Mutt'ring his wayward fancies he would rove,  
 Now drooping, woeful-wan, like one forlorn,  
 Or crazed with care, or cross'd in hopeless love.

"One morn I miss'd him on the custom'd hill,  
 Along the heath, and near his favourite tree;  
 Another came; nor yet beside the rill,  
 Nor up the lawn, nor at the wood was he:

"The next with dirges due in sad array  
 Slow through the church-way path we saw him  
 borne.



Approach and read (for thou canst read) the lay  
Graved on the stone beneath yon aged thorn":

THE EPITAPH

*Here rests his head upon the lap of Earth  
A Youth, to Fortune and to Fame unknown.  
Fair Science frown'd not on his humble birth,  
And Melancholy mark'd him for her own.*

*Large was his bounty, and his soul sincere,  
Heav'n did a recompense, as largely send;  
He gave to Mis'ry all he had, a tear,  
He gain'd from Heav'n ('t was all he wish'd)  
a friend.*

*No farther seek his merits to disclose,  
Or draw his frailties from their dread abode  
(There they alike in trembling hope repose,)  
The bosom of his Father and his God.*

THOMAS GRAY.

THE COTTER'S SATURDAY NIGHT

*Inscribed to R. Aiken, Esq.*

Let not ambition mock their useful toil,  
Their homely joys and destiny obscure;  
Nor grandeur hear, with a disdainful smile,  
The short but simple annals of the poor.—GRAY.

**M**Y LOVED, my honoured, much-  
respected friend,  
No mercenary bard his homage pays:



With honest pride I scorn each selfish end;  
 My dearest meed, a friend's esteem and  
 praise.

To you I sing, in simple Scottish lays,  
 The lowly train in life's sequestered scene;  
 The native feelings strong, the guileless ways;  
 What Aiken in a cottage would have been;  
 Ah! though his worth unknown, far happier  
 there, I ween.

November chill blows loud wi' angry sugh;  
 The shortening winter-day is near a close;  
 The miry beasts retreating frae the pleugh;  
 The blackening trains o' craws to their re-  
 pose:  
 The toilworn cotter frae his labour goes,—  
 This night his weekly moil is at an end,—  
 Collects his spades, his mattocks, and his hoes,  
 Hoping the morn in ease and rest to spend,  
 And weary, o'er the moor, his course does hame-  
 ward bend.

At length his lonely cot appears in view,  
 Beneath the shelter of an aged tree;  
 Th' expectant' wee-things, toddlin', stacher  
 through  
 To meet their dad, wi' flichterin' noise and  
 glee.

His wee bit ingle, blinkin' bonnily,  
 His clean hearth-stane, his thriftie wife's  
 smile,



The lisping infant prattling on his knee,  
Does a' his weary kiahgh and cares beguile,  
And makes him quite forget his labour and his  
toil.

Belyve the elder bairns come drapping in,  
At service out amang the farmers roun';  
Some ca' the pleugh, some herd, some tentie  
rin

A cannie errand to a neebor town;  
Their eldest hope, their Jenny, woman grown,  
In youthfu' bloom, love sparkling in her e'e,  
Comes hame; perhaps, to shew a braw new  
gown,

Or deposit her sair-won penny-fee,  
To help her parents dear, if they in hardship be.

With joy unfeigned brothers and sisters meet,  
And each for other's weelfare kindly spiers:  
The social hours, swift-winged, unnoticed  
fleet;

Each tells the uncos that he sees or hears,  
The parents, partial, eye their hopeful years;  
Anticipation forward points the view;  
The mother, wi' her needle and her shears,  
Gars auld claes look amaist as weel's the  
new;

The father mixes a' wi' admonition due.

Their master's and their mistress's command,  
The youngkers a' are warnèd to obey;



And mind their labours wi' an eydent hand,  
 And ne'er, though out o' sight, to jauk or  
 play:

"And O, be sure to fear the Lord alway!  
 An' mind your duty, duly, morn and night!  
 Lest in temptation's path ye gang astray,  
 Implore his counsel and assisting might;  
 They never sought in vain that sought the Lord  
 aright!"

But, hark! a rap comes gently to the door.

Jenny, wha kens the meaning o' the same,  
 Tells how a neebor lad cam o'er the moor,  
 To do some errands and convoy her hame.  
 The wily mother sees the conscious flame  
 Sparkle in Jenny's e'e, and flush her cheek;  
 With heart-struck anxious care enquires his  
 name,

While Jenny hafflins is afraid to speak;  
 Weel pleased the mother hears it's nae wild,  
 worthless rake.

With kindly welcome, Jenny brings him ben;  
 A strappin' youth; he taks the mother's eye;  
 Blithe Jenny sees the visit's no ill ta'en;  
 The father cracks of horses, pleughs, and  
 kye.

The youngster's artless heart o'erflows wi' joy.  
 But blate and laithfu', scarce can weel be-  
 have;



The mother, wi' a woman's wiles, can spy  
What makes the youth sae bashfu' and sae  
grave;  
Well pleased to think her bairn's respected like  
the lave.

O happy love! where love like this is found!  
O heartfelt raptures! bliss beyond compare!  
I've pacèd much this weary mortal round,  
And sage experience bids me this declare:—  
“If Heaven a draught of heavenly pleasure  
spare,  
One cordial in this melancholy vale,  
'Tis when a youthful, loving, modest pair  
In other's arms breathe out the tender tale,  
Beneath the milk-white thorn that scents the  
evening gale.”

Is there, in human form, that bears a heart,  
A wretch, a villain, lost to love and truth,  
That can, with studied, sly, ensnaring art,  
Betray sweet Jenny's unsuspecting youth?  
Curse on his perjured arts! dissembling,  
smooth!  
Are honour, virtue, conscience, all exiled?  
Is there no pity, no relenting ruth,  
Points to the parents fondling o'er their  
child,  
Then paints the ruined maid, and their distraction wild?



But now the supper crowns their simple board,  
 The healsome parritch, chief o' Scotia's food;  
 The soupe their only hawkie does afford.

That 'yont the hallan snugly chows her cood;  
 The dame brings forth, in complimental mood,  
 To grace the lad, her wele-hained kebbuck,  
 fell;

And aft he's prest, an' aft he ca's it guid;  
 The frugal wifie, garrulous, will tell,  
 How 'twas a towmond auld, sin' lint was i' the  
 bell.

The cheerfu' supper done, wi' serious face,  
 They, round the ingle, form a circle wide;  
 The sire turns o'er, wi' patriarchal grace,  
 The big ha'-Bible, ance his father's pride.  
 His bonnet reverently is laid aside,  
 His lyart haffets wearing thin an' bare:  
 Those strains that once did sweet in Zion glide,  
 He wales a portion with judicious care;  
 And "Let us worship God!" he says with solemn  
 air.

They chant their artless notes in simple guise;  
 They tune their hearts, by far the noblest  
 aim:  
 Perhaps "Dundee's" wild-warbling measures  
 rise,  
 Or plaintive "Martyrs," worthy of the  
 name;



Or noble "Elgin" beets the heavenward flame,  
The sweetest far of Scotia's holy lays:  
Compared with these, Italian trills are tame;  
The tickled ears no heartfelt raptures raise;  
Nae unison hae they with our Creator's praise.

The priest-like father reads the sacred page,—  
How Abram was the friend of God on high;  
Or Moses bade eternal warfare wage  
With Amalek's ungracious progeny;  
Or how the royal bard did groaning lie  
Beneath the stroke of Heaven's avenging ire;  
Or rapt Isaiah's wild, seraphic fire;  
Or other holy seers that tune the sacred lyre.

Perhaps the Christian volume is the theme,—  
How guiltless blood for guilty man was  
shed;  
How He, who bore in heaven the second name,  
Had not on earth whereon to lay his head:  
How his first followers and servants sped;  
The precepts sage they wrote to many a land:  
How he, who lone in Patmos banishèd,  
Saw in the sun a mighty angel stand,  
And heard great Bab'lon's doom pronounced by  
Heaven's command.

Then, kneeling down, to heaven's eternal King,  
The saint, the father, and the husband prays:  
Hope "springs exulting on triumphant wing,"



That thus they all shall meet in future days;  
 There ever bask in uncreated rays,  
 No more to sigh, or shed the bitter tear,  
 Together hymning their Creator's praise,  
 In such society, yet still more dear;  
 While circling Time moves round in an eternal  
 sphere.

Compared with this, how poor Religion's pride,  
 In all the pomp of method and of art,  
 When men display to congregations wide,  
 Devotion's every grace, except the heart!  
 The Power, incensed, the pageant will desert,  
 The pompous strain, the sacerdotal stole;  
 But, haply, in some cottage far apart,  
 May hear, well pleased, the language of the  
 soul;  
 And in His Book of Life the inmates poor enroll.

Then homeward all take off their several way;  
 The youngling cottagers retire to rest:  
 The parent-pair their secret homage pay,  
 And proffer up to Heaven the warm request,  
 That He who stills the raven's clamorous nest,  
 And decks the lily fair in flowery pride,  
 Would, in the way his wisdom sees the best,  
 For them and for their little ones provide;  
 But, chiefly, in their hearts with Grace Divine  
 preside.



From scenes like these old Scotia's grandeur  
    springs,  
That makes her loved at home, revered  
    abroad ;  
Princes and lords are but the breath of kings,  
    "An honest man's the noblest work of God!"  
And certes, in fair Virtue's heavenly road,  
    The cottage leaves the palace far behind ;  
What is a lordling's pomp?—a cumbrous load,  
    Disguising oft the wretch of humankind,  
Studied in arts of hell, in wickedness refined!

O Scotia! my dear, my native soil!  
    For whom my warmest wish to Heaven is  
    sent,  
Long may thy hardy sons of rustic toil  
    Be blest with health, and peace, and sweet  
    content!  
And, O, may Heaven their simple lives prevent  
    From luxury's contagion, weak and vile!  
Then, howe'er crowns and coronets be rent,  
    A virtuous populace may rise the while,  
And stand a wall of fire around their much-loved  
    isle.

O Thou! who poured the patriotic tide,  
    That streamed through Wallace's un-  
    daunted heart;  
Who dared to nobly stem tyrannic pride,  
    Or nobly die, the second glorious part,



(The patriot's God peculiarly thou art,  
His friend, inspirer, guardian, and reward!)  
O never, never Scotia's realm desert;  
But still the patriot and the patriot bard  
In bright succession raise, her ornament and  
guard!

ROBERT BURNS.

"FOR A' THAT AND A' THAT"

**I**S there, for honest Poverty,  
That hangs his head, and a' that!  
The coward slave, we pass him by,  
We dare be poor for a' that!  
For a' that, and a' that,  
Our toil's obscure, and a' that;  
The rank is but the guinea stamp,  
The Man's the gowd for a' that.

What though on hamely fare we dine,  
Wear hoddin' grey, and a' that;  
Gie fools their silks, and knaves their wine,  
A Man's a Man, for a' that.  
For a' that, and a' that,  
Their tinsel show, and a' that;  
The honest man, though e'er sae poor,  
Is king o' men, for a' that.

Ye see yon birkie, ca'd a lord,  
What struts, and stares, and a' that;  
Though hundreds worship at his word,



He's but a coof for a' that;  
For a' that, and a' that,  
His ribbon, star, and a' that;  
The man o' independent mind,  
He looks and laughs at a' that.

A prince can mak a belted knight,  
A marquis, duke, and a' that;  
But an honest man's aboon his might,  
Guid faith, he maunna fa' that!  
For a' that, and a' that,  
Their dignities, and a' that,  
The pith o' sense, and pride o' worth,  
Are higher rank than a' that.

Then let us pray that come it may,—  
As come it will for a' that,—  
That Sense and Worth, o'er a' the earth,  
May bear the gree, and a' that.  
For a' that, and a' that,  
It's coming yet, for a' that,—  
That Man to Man, the world o'er,  
Shall brothers be for a' that!

ROBERT BURNS.

#### THE GOLDEN AGE

O LOVELY age of gold!  
Not that the rivers rolled  
With milk, or that the woods wept honey-dew;  
Not that the ready ground



Produced without a wound,  
Or the mild serpent had no tooth that slew;  
Not that a cloudless blue  
For ever was in sight,  
Or that the heaven, which burns  
And now is cold by turns,  
Looked out in glad and everlasting light;  
No, not that even the insolent ships from far  
Brought war to no new lands, nor riches worse  
than war:

But solely that that vain  
And breath-invented pain,  
That idol of mistake, that worshipped cheat,  
That Honour,—since so called  
By vulgar minds appalled,—  
Played not the tyrant with our nature yet.  
It had not come to fret  
The sweet and happy fold  
Of gentle human-kind;  
Nor did its hard law bind  
Souls nursed in freedom; but that law of gold,  
That glad and golden law, all free, all fitted,  
Which Nature's own hand wrote: What pleases  
is permitted.

Then among streams and flowers  
The little wingèd powers  
Went singing carols without torch or bow;  
The nymphs and shepherds sat



Mingling with innocent chat  
Sports and low whispers; and with whispers  
low,  
Kisses that would not go.  
The maiden, budding o'er,  
Kept not her bloom un-eyed,  
Which now a veil must hide.  
Nor the crisp apples which her bosom bore,  
And oftentimes, in river or in lake,  
The lover and his love their merry bath would  
take.

'Twas thou, thou, Honour, first  
That didst deny our thirst  
Its drink, and on the fount thy covering set;  
Thou bad'st kind eyes withdraw  
Into constrained awe,  
And keep the secret for their tears to wet;  
Thou gather'dst in a net  
The tresses from the air,  
And mad'st the sports and plays  
Turn all to sullen ways.  
And putt'st on speech a rein, in steps a care.  
Thy work it is,—thou shade, that will not  
move,—  
That what was once the gift is now the theft of  
love.

Our sorrows and our pains,  
These are thy noble gains.



But, O thou Love's and Nature's masterer,  
 Thou conqueror of the crowned,  
 What dost thou on this ground,  
 Too small a circle for thy mighty sphere?  
 Go, and make slumber dear  
 To the renowned and high:  
 We here, a lowly race,  
 Can live without thy grace,  
 After the use of mild antiquity.  
 Go, let us love; since years  
 No truce allow, and life soon disappears.  
 Go, let us love: the daylight dies, is born;  
 But unto us the light  
 Dies once for all, and sleep brings on eternal  
 night.

Translated from the Italian  
 of TORQUATO TASSO by  
 LEIGH HUNT.

LINES WRITTEN AMONG THE EUGANEAN  
 HILLS

**M**ANY a green isle needs must be  
 In the deep wide sea of misery,  
 Or the mariner, worn and wan,  
 Never thus could voyage on  
 Day and night, and night and day,  
 Drifting on his dreary way,  
 With the solid darkness black  
 Closing round his vessel's track;



Whilst above, the sunless sky,  
Big with clouds, hangs heavily,  
And behind the tempest fleet  
Hurries on with lightning feet,  
Riving sail and cord and plank  
Till the ship has almost drank  
Death from the o'erbrimming deep;  
And sinks down, down, like that sleep  
When the dreamer seems to be  
Weltering through eternity;  
And the dim low line before  
Of a dark and distant shore  
Still recedes, as, ever still  
Longing with divided will,  
But no power to seek or shun,  
He is ever drifted on  
O'er the unreposing wave  
To the haven of the grave.  
What, if there no friends will greet;  
What, if there no heart will meet  
His with love's impatient beat;  
Wander whereso'er he may,  
Can he dream before that day  
To find a refuge from distress  
In friendship's smile, in love's caress?  
Then 'twill wreak him little woe  
Whether such there be or no:  
Senseless is the breast, and cold,  
Which relenting love would fold;  
Bloodless are the veins and chill



Which the pulse of pain did fill ;  
Every little living nerve  
That from bitter words did swerve  
Round the tortured lips and brow,  
Are like sapless leaflets now  
Frozen upon December's bough.  
On the beach of a northern sea  
Which tempests shake eternally,  
As once the wretch there lay to sleep,  
Lies a solitary heap,  
One white skull and seven dry bones,  
On the margin of the stones,  
Where a few grey rushes stand,  
Boundaries of the sea and land :  
Nor is heard one voice of wail  
But the sea-mews, as they sail  
O'er the billows of the gale ;  
Or the whirlwind up and down  
Howling, like a slaughtered town,  
When a king in glory rides  
Through the pomp of fratricides :  
Those unburied bones around  
There is many a mournful sound ;  
There is no lament for him,  
Like a sunless vapour, dim,  
Who once clothed with life and thought  
What now moves nor murmurs not.

Ay, many flowering islands lie  
In the waters of wide agony :



To such a one this morn was led  
My bark, by soft winds pi'oted.  
'Mid the mountains Euganean  
I stood listening to the pæan  
With which the legioned rooks did hail  
The sun's uprise majestical :  
Gathering round with wings all hoar,  
Through the dewy mist they soar  
Like grey shades, till the eastern heaven  
Bursts, and then, as clouds of even,  
Flecked with fire and azure, lie  
In the unfathomable sky,  
So their plumes of purple grain,  
Starred with drops of golden rain,  
Gleam above the sunlight woods,  
As in silent multitudes  
On the morning's fitful gale  
Through the broken mist they sail ;  
And the vapours cloven and gleaming  
Follow down the dark steep streaming,  
Till all is bright and clear and still  
Round the solitary hill.

Beneath is spread like a green sea  
The waveless plain of Lombardy,  
Bounded by the vaporous air,  
Islanded by cities fair ;  
Underneath day's azure eyes,  
Ocean's nursling, Venice, lies,—  
A peopled labyrinth of walls,



Amphitrite's destined halls,  
Which her hoary sire now paves  
With his blue and beaming waves.  
Lo! the sun upsprings behind,  
Broad, red, radiant, half reclined  
On the level quivering line  
Of the waters crystalline;  
And before that chasm of light,  
As within a furnace bright,  
Column, tower, and dome, and spire  
Shine like obelisks of fire,  
Pointing with inconstant motion  
From the altar of dark ocean  
To the sapphire-tinted skies;  
As the flames of sacrifice  
From the marble shrines did rise,  
As to pierce the dome of gold  
Where Apollo spoke of old.

Sun-girt city! thou hast been  
Ocean's child, and then his queen;  
Now is come a darker day,  
And thou soon must be his prey,  
If the power that raised thee here  
Hallow so thy watery bier.  
A less drear ruin than than now,  
With thy conquest-branded brow  
Stooping to the slave of slaves  
From thy throne among the waves  
Wilt thou be when the sea-mew



Flies, as once before it flew,  
O'er thine isles depopulate,  
And all is in its ancient state,  
Save where many a palace-gate  
With green sea-flowers overgrown  
Like a rock of ocean's own,  
Topples o'er the abandoned sea  
As the tides change sullenly.  
The fisher on his watery way  
Wandering at the close of day  
Will spread his sail and seize his oar  
Till he pass the gloomy shore,  
Lest thy dead should, from their sleep  
Bursting o'er the starlight deep,  
Lead a rapid mask of death  
O'er the waters of his path.

Those who alone thy towers behold  
Quivering through aërial gold,  
As I now behold them here,  
Would imagine not they were  
Sepulchres, where human forms,  
Like pollution-nourished worms  
To the corpse of greatness cling,  
Murdered, and now mouldering:  
But if Freedom should awake  
In her omnipotence, and shake  
From the Celtic Anarch's hold  
All the keys of dungeons cold,  
Where a hundred cities lie



Chained like thee, ingloriously,  
Thou and all thy sister band  
Might adorn this sunny land,  
Twining memories of old time  
With new virtues more sublime;  
If not, perish thou and they,  
Clouds which stain truth's rising day  
By her sun consumed away,  
Earth can spare ye: while like flowers,  
In the waste of years and hours,  
From your dust new nations spring  
With more kindly blossoming.  
Perish—let there only be  
Floating o'er thy heartless sea  
As the garment of thy sky  
Clothes the world immortally,  
One remembrance, more sublime  
Than the tattered pall of time,  
Which scarce hides thy visage wan;—  
That a tempest-cleaving Swan  
Of the songs of Albion,  
Driven from his ancestral streams  
By the might of evil dreams,  
Found a nest in thee; and Ocean  
Welcomed him with such emotion  
That its joy grew his, and sprung  
From his lips like music flung  
O'er a mighty thunder-fit  
Chastening terror:—what though yet  
Poesy's unfailing River,



Which thro' Albion winds for ever  
Lashing with melodious wave  
Many a sacred Poet's grave,  
Mourn its latest nursling fled?  
What though thou with all thy dead  
Scarce can for this fame repay  
Aught thine own? oh, rather say  
Though thy sins and slaveries foul  
Overcloud a sunlike soul?  
As the ghost of Homer clings  
Round Scamander's wasting springs;  
As divinest Shakespere's might  
Fills Avon and the world with light  
Like omniscient power which he  
Imaged 'mid mortality;  
As the love from Petrarch's urn,  
Yet amid yon hills doth burn,  
A quenchless lamp by which the heart  
Sees things unearthly;—so thou art  
Mighty spirit—so shall be  
The City that did refuge thee.

Lo, the sun floats up the sky  
Like thought-wingèd Liberty,  
Till the universal light  
Seems to level plain and height;  
From the sea a mist has spread,  
And the beams of morn lie dead  
On the towers of Venice now,  
Like its glory long ago.



By the skirts of that grey cloud  
Many-domèd Padua proud  
Stands, a peopled solitude,  
'Mid the harvest-shining plain,  
Where the peasant heaps his grain  
In the garner of his foe,  
And the milk-white oxen slow  
With the purple vintage strain,  
Heaped upon the creaking wain,  
That the brutal Celt may swill  
Drunken sleep with savage will;  
And the sickle to the sword  
Lies unchanged, though many a lord,  
Like a weed whose shade is poison,  
Overgrows this region's foison,  
Sheaves of whom are ripe to come  
To destruction's harvest home:  
Men must reap the things they sow,  
Force from force must ever flow,  
Or worse; but 'tis a bitter woe  
That love or reason cannot change  
The despot's rage, the slave's revenge.

Padua, thou within whose walls  
Those mute guests at festivals,  
Son and Mother, Death and Sin,  
Played at dice for Ezzelin,  
Till Death cried, "I win, I win!"  
And Sin cursed to lose the wager,  
But Death promised, to assuage her,



That he would petition for  
Her to be made Vice-Emperor,  
When the destined years were o'er,  
Over all between the Po  
And the eastern Alpine snow,  
Under the mighty Austrian.  
Sin smiled so as Sin only can,  
And since that time, ay, long before,  
Both have ruled from shore to shore,  
That incestuous pair, who follow  
Tyrants as the sun the swallow,  
As Repentance follows Crime,  
And as changes follow Time.

In thine halls the lamp of learning,  
Padua, now no more is burning;  
Like a meteor, whose wild way  
Is lost over the grave of day,  
It gleams betrayed and to betray:  
Once remotest nations came  
To adore that sacred flame,  
When it lit not many a hearth  
On this cold and gloomy earth:  
Now new fires from antique light  
Spring beneath the wide world's might;  
But their spark lies dead in thee,  
Trampled out by tyranny.  
As the Norway woodman quells,  
In the depth of piny dells,  
One light flame among the brakes,



## AMONG THE EUGANEAN HILLS

While the boundless forest shakes,  
And its mighty trunks are torn  
By the fire thus lowly born:  
The spark beneath his feet is dead,  
He starts to see the flames it fed  
Howling through the darkened sky  
With a myriad tongues victoriously,  
And sinks down in fear: so thou,  
O Tyranny, beholdest now  
Light around thee, and thou hearest  
The loud flames ascend, and fearest:  
Grovel on the earth; ay, hide  
In the dust thy purple pride!

Noon descends around me now:  
'Tis the noon of autumn's glow,  
When a soft and purple mist,  
Like a vaporous amethyst,  
Or an air-dissolvèd star,  
Mingling light and fragrance, far  
From the curved horizon's bound  
To the point of heaven's profound,  
Fills the overflowing sky;  
And the plains that silent lie  
Underneath; the leaves unsodden  
Where the infant frost has trodden  
With his morning-wingèd feet,  
Whose bright print is gleaming yet;  
And the red and golden vines,  
Piercing with their trellised lines



The rough, dark-skirted wilderness;  
The dun and bladed grass no less,  
Pointing from this hoary tower  
In the windless air; the flower  
Glimmering at my feet; the line  
Of the olive-sandalled Appenine  
In the south dimly islanded;  
And the Alps, whose snows are spread  
High between the clouds and sun;  
And of living things each one;  
And my spirit, which so long  
Darkened this swift stream of song,—  
Interpenetrated lie  
By the glory of the sky:  
Be it love, light harmony,  
Odour, or the soul of all  
Which from heaven like dew doth fall,  
Or the mind which feeds this verse  
Peopling the lone universe.  
Noon descends, and after noon  
Autumn's evening meets me soon,  
Leading the infantine moon,  
And that one star, which to her  
Almost seems to minister  
Half the crimson light she brings  
From the sunset's radiant springs:  
And the soft dreams of the morn  
(Which like wingèd winds had borne  
To that silent isle, which lies  
Mid remembered agonies,



The frail bark of this lone being)  
Pass, to other sufferers fleeing,  
And its ancient pilot, Pain,  
Sits beside the helm again.

Other flowering isles must be  
In the sea of life and agony ;  
Other spirits float and flee  
O'er that gulf ; even now, perhaps,  
On some rock the wild wave wraps,  
With folded winds they waiting sit  
For my bark, to pilot it  
To some calm and blooming cove,  
Where for me, and those I love,  
May a windless bower be built,  
Far from passion, pain, and guilt,  
In a dell 'mid lawny hills,  
Which the wild sea-murmur fills,  
And soft sunshine, and the sound  
Of old forests echoing round,  
And the light and smell divine  
Of all flowers that breathe and shine :  
—We may live so happy there,  
That the spirits of the air,  
Envyng us, may even entice  
To our healing paradise  
The polluting multitude ;  
But their rage would be subdued  
By that clime divine and calm,  
And the winds whose wing rain balm



On the uplifted soul, and leaves  
Under which the bright sea heaves;  
While each breathless interval  
In their whisperings musical  
The inspired soul supplies  
With its own deep melodies;  
And the love which heals all strife,  
Circling, like the breath of life,  
All things in that sweet abode  
With its own mild brotherhood:  
They, not it, would change; and soon  
Every sprite beneath the moon  
Would repent its envy vain,  
And the earth grow young again!

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY.

I HEAR AMERICA SINGING

**I** HEAR America singing, the varied carols I  
hear,  
Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it  
should be blithe and strong,  
The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank  
or beam,  
The mason singing his as he makes ready for  
work, or leaves off work,  
The boatman singing what belongs to him in his  
boat, the deck-hand singing on the steam-  
boat deck,  
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench, the  
hatter singing as he stands,



The wood-cutter's song, the ploughboy's on his  
way in the morning, or at noon inter-  
mission or at sundown,  
The delicious singing of the mother, or of the  
young wife at work, or of the girl sewing  
or washing,  
Each singing what belongs to him or her and to  
none else,  
The day what belongs to the day—at night the  
party of young fellows, robust, friendly,  
Singing with open mouths their strong melodious  
songs.

WALT WHITMAN.

### ABRAHAM LINCOLN WALKS AT MIDNIGHT\*

*In Springfield, Illinois*

**I**T IS portentous, and a thing of state  
That here at midnight, in our little town  
A mourning figure walks, and will not rest,  
Near the old court-house pacing up and down.

Or by his homestead, or in shadowed yards  
He lingers where his children used to play,  
Or through the market, on the well-worn stones  
He stalks until the dawn-stars burn away.

\* Reprinted, by permission of the publishers, The Macmillan Company, from *Collected Poems* by Vachel Lindsay.



A bronzed, lank man! His suit of ancient black,  
A famous high-top hat and plain worn shawl  
Make him the quaint great figure that men love,  
The prairie-lawyer, master of us all.

He cannot sleep upon his hillside now.  
He is among us:—as in times before!  
And we who toss and lie awake for long  
Breathe deep, and start, to see him pass the door.

His head is bowed. He thinks on men and kings.  
Yea, when the sick world cries, how can he sleep?  
Too many peasants fight, they know not why,  
Too many homesteads in black terror weep.

The sins of all the war-lords burn his heart.  
He sees the dreadnaughts scouring every main.  
He carries on his shawl-wrapped shoulders now  
The bitterness, the folly and the pain.

He cannot rest until a spirit-dawn  
Shall come;—the shining hope of Europe free:  
The league of sober folk, the Workers' Earth,  
Bringing long peace to Cornland, Alp and Sea.

It breaks his heart that kings must murder still,  
That all his hours of travail here for men  
Seem yet in vain. And who will bring white peace  
That he may sleep upon his hill again?

VACHEL LINDSAY.



## ENGLAND, 1802

**M**ILTON! thou shouldst be living at this hour:

England hath need of thee: she is a fen  
Of stagnant waters: altar, sword, and pen,  
Fireside, the heroic wealth of hall and bower,  
Have forfeited their ancient English dower  
Of inward happiness. We are selfish men;  
O raise us up, return to us again,  
And give us manners, virtue, freedom, power!  
Thy soul was like a Star, and dwelt apart;  
Thou hadst a voice whose sound was like the  
sea:

Pure as the naked heavens, majestic, free,  
So didst thou travel on life's common way,  
In cheerful godliness; and yet thy heart  
The lowliest duties on herself did lay.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

## FROM "PARADISE LOST"

## SATAN TO BEËLZEBUB, IN HELL

**T**O WHOM the' Arch-Enemy,  
And thence in Heaven called Satan, with  
bold words  
Breaking the horrid silence, thus began:—  
"If thou beest he—but oh, how fall'n! how  
changed  
From him who, in the happy realms of light,



Clothed with transcendent brightness, didst out-  
shine

Myriads, though bright!—if he whom mutual  
league,

United thoughts and counsels, equal hope

And hazard in the glorious enterprise,

Joined with me once, now misery hath joined

In equal ruin; into what pit thou seest

From what height fallen: so much the stronger  
proved

He with his thunder: and till then who knew

The force of those dire arms? Yet not for those,

Nor what the potent Victor in his rage

Can else inflict, do I repent, or change,

Though changed in outward lustre, that fixed  
mind,

And high disdain from sense of injured merit,

That with the Mightiest raised me to contend,

And to the fierce contention brought along

Innumerable force of Spirits armed,

That durst dislike his reign, and, me preferring,

His utmost power with adverse power opposed

In dubious battle on the plains of Heaven,

And shook his throne. What though the field be  
lost?

All is not lost—the unconquerable will,

And study of revenge, immortal hate,

And courage never to submit or yield:

And what is else not to be overcome.

That glory never shall his wrath or might



Extort from me. To bow and sue for grace  
With suppliant knee, and deify his power  
Who, from the terror of this arm, so late  
Doubted his empire—that were low indeed;  
That were an ignominy and shame beneath  
This downfall; since by fate the strength of Gods,  
And this empyreal substance, cannot fail;  
Since, through experience of this great event,  
In arms not worse, in foresight much advanced,  
We may with more successful hope resolve  
To wage by force or guile eternal war,  
Irreconcilable to our grand Foe,  
Who now triumphs, and in th' excess of joy  
Sole reigning holds the tyranny of Heaven."

. . . . .  
"Is this the region, this the soil, the clime,"  
Said then the lost Archangel, "this the seat  
That we must change for Heaven?—this mourn-  
ful gloom  
For that celestial light? Be it so, since he  
Who now is sovran can dispose and bid  
What shall be right: farthest from him is best,  
Whom reason hath equalled, force hath made  
supreme  
Above his equals. Farewell, happy fields,  
Where joy for ever dwells! Hail, horrors, hail,  
Infernal World! and thou, profoundest Hell,  
Receive thy new possessor—one who brings  
A mind not to be changed by place or time.  
The mind is its own place, and in itself



Can make a Heaven of Hell, a Hell of Heaven.  
What matter where, if I be still the same,  
And what I should be, all but less than he  
Whom thunder hath made greater? Here at least  
We shall be free; th' Almighty hath not built  
Here for his envy, will not drive us hence:  
Here we may reign secure; and, in my choice,  
To reign is worth ambition, though in Hell:  
Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven.  
But wherefore let we then our faithful friends,  
Th' associates and co-partners of our loss,  
Lie thus astonished on th' oblivious pool,  
And call them not to share with us their part  
In this unhappy mansion, or once more  
With rallied arms to try what may be yet  
Regained in Heaven, or what more lost in Hell?"

THE GATHERING OF THE POWERS IN HELL

**A**LL these and more came flocking; but with  
looks  
Downcast and damp; yet such wherein appeared  
Obscure some glimpse of joy to have found their  
Chief  
Not in despair, to have found themselves not lost  
In loss itself; which on his count'nance cast  
Like doubtful hue: but he, his wonted pride  
Soon recollecting, with high words, that bore  
Semblance of worth, not substance, gently raised  
Their fainted courage, and dispelled their fears:



Then straight commands that, at the warlike  
sound

Of trumpets loud and clarions, be upreared  
His mighty standard. That proud honour claimed  
Azazel as his right, a Cherub tall:

Who forthwith from the glittering staff unfurled  
Th' imperial ensign; which, full high advanced,  
Shone like a meteor streaming to the wind,  
With gems and golden lustre rich emblazed,  
Seraphic arms and trophies; all the while  
Sonorous metal blowing martial sounds:

At which the universal host up-sent  
A shout that tore Hell's concave, and beyond  
Frighted the reign of Chaos and old Night.

## BEËLZEBUB

**W**HICH when Beëlzebub perceived—than  
whom,

Satan except, none higher sat—with grave  
Aspect he rose, and in his rising seemed  
A pillar of state; deep on his front engraven  
Deliberation sat, and public care;  
And princely counsel in his face yet shone,  
Majestic, though in ruin; sage he stood,  
With Atlantean shoulders, fit to bear  
The weight of mightiest monarchies; his look  
Drew audience and attention still as night  
Or summer's noontide air, while thus he spake:—



THE DEPARTURE OF ADAM AND EVE FROM  
PARADISE.

SO SPAKE our mother Eve; and Adam  
heard

Well pleased, but answered not; for now too high  
Th' Archangel stood, and from the other hill  
To their fixed station, all in bright array  
The Cherubim descended, on the ground  
Gliding meteorous, as evening mist,  
Risen from a river, o'er the marish glides,  
And gathers ground fast at the labourer's heel  
Homeward returning. High in front advanced,  
The brandished sword of God before them blazed.  
Fierce as a comet, which with torrid heat,  
And vapour as the Libyan air adust,  
Began to parch that temperate clime; whereat  
In either hand the hast'ning Angel caught  
Our lingering parents, and to th' eastern gate  
Led them direct, and down the cliff as fast  
To the subjected plain; then disappeared.  
They, looking back, all the eastern side beheld  
Of Paradise, so late their happy seat,  
Waved over by that flaming brand, the gate  
With dreadful faces thronged and fiery arms:  
Some natural tears they dropped, but wiped them  
soon;  
The world was all before them, where to choose  
Their place of rest, and Providence their guide:



They, hand in hand, with wandering steps and  
slow,

Through Eden took their solitary way.

JOHN MILTON.

ULYSSES

**I**T LITTLE profits that an idle king,  
By this still hearth, among these barren crags,  
Match'd with an aged wife, I mete and dole  
Unequal laws unto a savage race,  
That hoard, and sleep, and feed, and know not  
me.

I cannot rest from travel: I will drink  
Life to the lees: all times I have enjoy'd  
Greatly, have suffer'd greatly, both with those  
That loved me, and alone; on shore, and when  
Thro' scudding drifts the rainy Hyades  
Vext the dim sea: I am become a name;  
For always roaming with a hungry heart  
Much have I seen and known: cities of men,  
And manners, climates, councils, governments,  
Myself not least, but honour'd of them all;  
And drunk delight of battle with my peers,  
Far on the ringing plains of windy Troy.  
I am a part of all that I have met;  
Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'  
Gleams that untravell'd world, whose margin  
fades



For ever and for ever when I move.  
How dull it is to pause, to make an end,  
To rust unburnish'd, not to shine in use!

As tho' to breathe were life. Life piled on life  
Were all too little, and of one to me  
Little remains: but every hour is saved  
From that eternal silence, something more,  
A bringer of new things; and vile it were  
For some three suns to store and hoard myself,  
And this grey spirit yearning in desire  
To follow knowledge like a sinking star,  
Beyond the utmost bound of human thought,

This is my son, mine own Telemachus,  
To whom I leave the sceptre and the isle—  
Well-loved of me, discerning to fulfil  
This labour, by slow prudence to make mild  
A rugged people, and thro' soft degrees  
Subdue them to the useful and the good.  
Most blameless is he, centred in the sphere  
Of common duties, decent not to fail  
In offices of tenderness, and pay  
Meet adoration to my household gods,  
When I am gone. He works his work, I mine.

There lies the port; the vessel puffs her sail:  
There gloom the dark broad seas. My mariners,  
Souls that have toil'd, and wrought, and thought  
with me—

That ever with a frolic welcome took



The thunder and the sunshine, and opposed  
 Free hearts, free foreheads—you and I are old:  
 Old age hath yet his honour and his toil;

Death closes all: but something ere the end,  
 Some work of noble note, may yet be done,  
 Not unbecoming men that strove with Gods.  
 The lights begin to twinkle from the rocks:  
 The long day wanes: the slow moon climbs: the  
 deep

Moans round with many voices. Come, my  
 friends,

'Tis not too late to seek a newer world.  
 Push off, and sitting well in order smite  
 The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds  
 To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths  
 Of all the western stars, until I die.  
 It may be that the gulfs will wash us down:  
 It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles,  
 And see the great Achilles, whom we knew.  
 Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho'  
 We are not now that strength which in old days  
 Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we  
 are;

One equal temper of heroic hearts,  
 Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will  
 To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

LORD TENNYSON.



## MERLIN AND THE GLEAM

O YOUNG Mariner,  
You from the haven  
Under the sea-cliff,  
You that are watching  
The grey Magician  
With eyes of wonder,  
*I* am Merlin,  
And *I* am dying,  
*I* am Merlin  
Who follow the Gleam.

Mighty the Wizard  
Who found me at sunrise  
Sleeping and woke me  
And learn'd me Magic!  
Great the Master,  
And sweet the Magic,  
When over the valley,  
In early summers,  
Over the mountain,  
On human faces,  
And all around me,  
Moving to melody,  
Floated the Gleam.

Once at the croak of a Raven who crossed it,  
A barbarous people,  
Blind to the magic,



And deaf to the melody,  
Snarl'd at and cursed me.  
A demon vexed me,  
The light retreated,  
The landskip darken'd,  
The melody deaden'd,  
The Master whisper'd,  
"Follow the Gleam."

Then to the melody  
Over a wilderness  
Gliding, and glancing at  
Elf of the woodland,  
Gnome of the cavern,  
Griffin and Giant,  
And dancing of Fairies  
In desolate hollows,  
And wraiths of the mountain,  
And rolling of dragons  
By warble of water,  
Or cataract music  
Of falling torrents,  
Flitted the Gleam.

Down from the mountain  
And over the level,  
And streaming and shining on  
Silent river,  
Silvery willow,  
Pasture and plowland,



Innocent maidens,  
Garrulous children,  
Homestead and harvest,  
Reaper and gleaner,  
And rough-ruddy faces  
Of lowly labour,  
Slided the Gleam—

Then, with a melody  
Stronger and statelier,  
Led me at length  
To the city and palace  
Of Arthur the King;  
Touch'd at the golden  
Cross of the churches,  
Flash'd on the Tournament,  
Flicker'd and bicker'd  
From helmet to helmet,  
And last on the forehead  
Of Arthur the blameless  
Rested the Gleam.

Clouds and darkness  
Closed upon Camelot;  
Arthur had vanish'd  
I knew not whither,  
The king who loved me,  
And cannot die;  
For out of the darkness  
Silent and slowly



The Gleam, that had waned to a wintry glimmer  
On icy fallow  
And faded forest,  
Drew to the valley  
Named of the shadow,  
And slowly brightening  
Out of the glimmer,  
And slowly moving again to a melody  
Yearningly tender,  
Fell on the shadow,  
No longer a shadow,  
But clothed with the Gleam.

And broader and brighter  
The Gleam flying onward,  
Wed to the melody,  
Sang thro' the world;  
And slower and fainter,  
Old and weary,  
But eager to follow,  
I saw, whenever  
In passing it glanced upon  
Hamlet or city,  
That under the Crosses  
The dead man's garden,  
The mortal hillock,  
Would break into blossom;  
And so to the land's  
Last limit I came—  
And can no longer,



But die rejoicing,  
For thro' the Magic  
Of Him the Mighty,  
Who taught me in childhood  
There on the border  
Of boundless Ocean,  
And all but in Heaven  
Hovers the Gleam.

Not of the sunlight,  
Not of the moonlight,  
Not of the starlight!  
O young Mariner,  
Down to the haven,  
Call your companions,  
Launch your vessel  
And crowd your canvas,  
And, ere it vanishes  
Over the margin,  
After it, follow it,  
Follow the Gleam.

LORD TENNYSON.

LINES ON SEA ADVENTURE \*

**I** SAW the old, rust-spotted, ill-found ship  
Pass through the lock-gates on another quest.  
The hurry of the river made her dip  
So that its darkness whitened at her breast.

\* Reprinted, by permission of the Authors' Society of England, acting for the author, from *Adventures by Sea from Art of Old Time*, by Basil Lubbock.



A band of men (too few) bent at her bows  
 Getting her anchors inboard before dark;  
 I heard them sing a song like a carouse;  
 I watched her light die down into a spark.

I thought that thus, these seven hundred years,  
 Our ships have gone where never pathway showed  
 Manned by the hope that never yields to fears  
 To wander the unknown and find a road

And bring, to some lone farm in Kent of Devon,  
 "Some crownes, some spoiles, a little dew of  
 Heaven."

Thus they have gone; but far from sight of land  
 Or other eye than theirs, what have they known,  
 What miracles of courage and of hand  
 When all salvation failed them save their own?

What miseries of fire, and frost, and thirst,  
 Fever and pestilence, and stroke of sun?  
 What Acts of God destroying the accurst?  
 What acts of man, slaughter and malison?

What chance, of the wind holding or tide failing  
 What luck, of shift of current here or here,  
 What awe, of the berg's ghost above the railing  
 Or of the breaker's wraith a fathom clear.



What terror of the toppling sea that towers,  
Then whelms, as hers, the manhood that was  
ours?

If some among those men were hot for gain  
As pirates on the sea, or for the spoil  
Of seaport cities on the Spanish Main,  
Or to snatch negroes to a life of toil.

These were the few, the many, with hard hands  
Dragged, boated, hoisted, stowed the bargained  
freight,  
Chaffered in all the tongues of foreign lands,  
Starved, thirsted, froze, went sleepless, early,  
late;

Died young, unknown, yet for their countless  
pains,  
Wrought this, that still abides, a charted sea,  
A world made little wherein conquering brains  
Can pass from land to new land, setting free,

Freeing this soul of man that in its cage  
Turns, and is weary of it, age by age.

JOHN MASEFIELD.

#### UPSTREAM \*

**T**HE strong men keep coming on.  
They go down shot, hanged, sick, broken.

\* Reprinted, by permission of the publishers, Harcourt Brace and Co., from *Slabs of the Sunburnt West*, by Carl Sandburg.



They live on fighting, singing, lucky as plungers.  
The strong mothers pulling them on . . .  
The strong mothers pulling them from a dark  
    sea, a great prairie, a long mountain.  
Call hallelujah, call amen, call deep thanks.  
The strong men keep coming on.

CARL SANDBURG

## TO ALTHEA, FROM PRISON

WHEN Love with unconfinèd wings  
    Hovers within my gates  
And my divine Althea brings  
    To whisper at the grates;  
When I lie tangled in her hair  
    And fetter'd to her eye,  
The birds that wanton in the air  
    Know no such liberty.

When flowing cups run swiftly round  
    With no allaying Thames,  
Our careless heads with roses bound,  
    Our hearts with loyal flames;  
When thirsty grief in wine we steep,  
    When healths and draughts go free—  
Fishes that tipples in the deep  
    Know no such liberty.  
When, like committed linnets, I  
    With shriller throat shall sing



The sweetness, mercy, majesty,  
And glories of my King ;  
When I shall voice aloud how good  
He is, how great should be,  
Enlargèd winds, that curl the flood,  
Know no such liberty.

Stone walls do not a prison make,  
Nor iron bars a cage ;  
Minds innocent and quiet take  
That for an hermitage ;  
If I have freedom in my love  
And in my soul am free,  
Angels alone, that soar above,  
Enjoy such liberty.

RICHARD LOVELACE.

### HIS PILGRIMAGE

**G**IVE me my scallop-shell of quiet,  
My staff of faith to walk upon,  
My scrip of joy, immortal diet,  
My bottle of salvation,  
My gown of glory, hope's true gage ;  
And thus I'll make my pilgrimage.

Blood must be my body's balmer ;  
No other balm will there be given :  
Whilst my soul, like quiet palmer,



Travelleth towards the land of heaven;  
Over the silver mountains,  
Where spring the nectar fountains;  
There will I kiss  
The bowl of bliss;  
And drink mine everlasting fill  
Upon every milken hill.  
My soul will be a-dry before;  
But, after, it will thirst no more.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

## ODE TO SOLITUDE

**H**APPY the man, whose wish and care  
A few paternal acres bound,  
Content to breathe his native air  
In his own ground.

Whose herds with milk, whose fields with bread,  
Whose flocks supply him with attire;  
Whose trees in summer yield him shade,  
In winter, fire.

Blest who can unconcern'dly find  
Hours, days, and years slide soft away  
In health of body, peace of mind,  
Quiet by day,



Sound sleep by night; study and ease  
Together mixed; sweet recreation,  
And innocence, which most does please  
    With meditation.

Thus let me live, unseen, unknown;  
Thus unlamented let me die;  
Steal from the world, and not a stone  
    Tell where, I lie.

ALEXANDER POPE.

#### THE PIPER

**P**IPING down the valleys wild,  
Piping songs of pleasant glee,  
On a cloud I saw a child,  
And he laughing said to me:—

“Pipe a song about a lamb”:  
So I piped with merry cheer.  
“Piper, pipe that song again”:  
So I piped; he wept to hear.

“Drop thy pipe, thy happy pipe,  
Sing thy songs of happy cheer”:  
So I sung the same again,  
While he wept with joy to hear.



"Piper, sit thee down and write  
In a book that all may read—"  
So he vanished from my sight;  
And I plucked a hollow reed,

And I made a rural pen,  
And I stained the water clear,  
And I wrote my happy songs  
Every child may joy to hear.

WILLIAM BLAKE.

### ISRAFEL

**I**N Heaven a spirit doth dwell  
"Whose heart-strings are a lute";  
None sing so wildly well  
As the angel Israfel,  
And the giddy stars (so legends tell),  
Ceasing their hymns, attend the spell  
Of his voice, all mute.

Tottering above  
In her highest noon,  
The enamoured moon  
Blushes with love,  
While, to listen, the red levin  
(With the rapid Pleiads, even,  
Which were seven)  
Pauses in Heaven.



And they say (the starry choir  
And the other listening things)  
That Israfeli's fire  
Is owing to that lyre  
By which he sits and sings—  
The trembling living wire  
Of those unusual strings.

But the skies that angel trod,  
Where deep thoughts are a duty,  
Where Love's a grown-up God,  
Where the Houri glances are  
Imbued with all the beauty  
Which we worship in a star.

Therefore, thou art not wrong,  
Israfeli, who despisest  
An unimpassioned song;  
To thee the laurels belong,  
Best bard, because the wisest!  
Merrily live, and long!

The ecstasies above  
With thy burning measures suit—  
Thy grief, thy joy, thy hate, thy love,  
With the fervour of thy lute—  
Well may the stars be mute!

Yes, Heaven is thine; but this  
Is a world of sweets and sour;



Our flowers are merely—flowers,  
And the shadow of thy perfect bliss  
Is the sunshine of ours.

If I could dwell  
Where Israfel  
Hath dwelt, and he where I,  
He might not sing so wildly well  
A mortal melody,  
While a bolder note than this might swell  
From my lyre within the sky.

EDGAR ALLAN POE.

WELL I REMEMBER HOW YOU SMILED

**W**ELL I remember how you smiled  
To see me write your name upon  
The soft sea-sand—"O! what a child!  
*You think you're writing upon stone!"*

I have since written what no tide  
Shall ever wash away, what men  
Unborn shall read o'er ocean wide  
And find Ianthe's name again.

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR.



“ONE DAY I WROTE HER NAME UPON THE  
STRAND”

ONE day I wrote her name upon the strand,  
But came the waves and washed it away:  
Again I wrote it with a second hand,  
But came the tide and made my pains his prey.  
“Vain man,” said she, “that dost in vain essay  
A mortal thing so to immortalize;  
For I myself shall like to this decay,  
And eke my name be wiped out likewise.”  
“Not so,” quoth I; “let baser things devise  
To die in dust, but you shall live by fame;  
My verse your virtues rare shall eternize,  
And in the heavens write your glorious name:  
Where, whenas Death shall all the world sub-  
due,  
Our love shall live, and later life renew.”  
EDMUND SPENSER.

BEAUTY

THING of beauty is a joy for ever:  
Its loveliness increases; it will never  
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep  
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet  
breathing.  
Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing  
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,



Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth  
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,  
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways  
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,  
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall  
From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,  
Trees old and young, sprouting a shady boon  
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils  
With the green world they live in; and clear  
rills

That for themselves a cooling covert make  
'Gainst the hot season; the mid-forest brake,  
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms:  
And such too is the grandeur of the dooms  
We have imagined for the mighty dead;  
All lovely tales that we have heard or read:  
An endless fountain of immortal drink,  
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

Nor do we merely feel these essences  
For one short hour; no, even as the trees  
That whisper round a temple become soon  
Dear as the temple's self, so does the moon,  
The passion poesy, glories infinite,  
Haunt us till they become a cheering light  
Unto our souls, and bound to us so fast,  
That, whether there be shine, or gloom o'ercast,  
They always must be with us, or we die.

From "Endymion" by JOHN KEATS.



## ODE ON A GRECIAN URN

**T**HOU still unravish'd bride of quietness,  
Thou foster-child of Silence and slow  
Time,

Sylvan historian, who canst thus express

A flowery tale more sweetly than our rhyme:  
What leaf-fringed legend haunts about thy shape  
Of deities or mortals, or of both,

In Tempe or the dales of Arcady?

What men or gods are these? What maidens  
loth?

What mad pursuit? What struggle to escape?

What pipes and timbrels? What wild  
ecstasy?

Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard

Are sweeter; therefore, ye soft pipes, play on;  
Not to the sensual ear, but, more endear'd,

Pipe to the spirit ditties of no tone:

Fair youth, beneath the trees, thou canst not  
leave

Thy song, nor ever can those trees be bare;

Bold Lover, never, never canst thou kiss,  
Though winning near the goal—yet, do not  
grieve;

She cannot fade, though thou hast not thy  
bliss,

For ever wilt thou love, and she be fair!



Ah, happy, happy boughs! that cannot shed  
Your leaves, nor ever bid the Spring adieu;  
And, happy melodist, unwearièd,  
For ever piping songs for ever new;  
More happy love! more happy, happy love!  
For ever warm and still to be enjoy'd,  
For ever panting and for ever young;  
All breathing human passion far above,  
That leaves a heart high-sorrowful and cloy'd,  
A burning forehead, and a parching tongue.

Who are these coming to the sacrifice?  
To what green altar, O mysterious priest,  
Lead'st thou that heifer lowing at the skies,  
And all her silken flanks with garlands drest?  
What little town by river or sea-shore,  
Or mountain-built with peaceful citadel,  
Is emptied of its folk, this pious morn?  
And, little town, thy streets for evermore  
Will silent be; and not a soul, to tell  
Why thou art desolate, can e'er return.

O Attic shape! fair attitude! with brede  
Of marble men and maidens overwrought,  
With forest branches and the trodden weed;  
Thou, silent form! dost tease us out of thought  
As doth eternity. Cold Pastoral!  
When old age shall this generation waste,



Thou shalt remain, in midst of other woe  
Than ours, a friend to man, to whom thou  
say'st,  
"Beauty is truth, truth beauty,—that is all  
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know."  
JOHN KEATS.

## ODE TO THE WEST WIND

## I

O WILD West Wind, thou breath of  
Autumn's being  
Thou from whose unseen presence the leaves  
dead  
Are driven like ghosts from an enchanter fleeing,  
  
Yellow, and black, and pale, and hectic red,  
Pestilence-stricken multitudes! O thou  
Who chariotest to their dark wintry bed  
  
The wingèd seeds, where they lie cold and low,  
Each like a corpse within its grave, until  
Thine azure sister of the Spring shall blow  
  
Her clarion o'er the dreaming earth, and fill  
(Driving sweet buds like flocks to feed in air)  
With living hues and odours plain and hill;  
  
Wild spirit, which art moving everywhere;  
Destroyer and preserver; hear, O hear!



## II

Thou on whose stream, 'mid the steep sky's commotion,

Loose clouds like earth's decaying leaves are shed,

Shook from the tangled boughs of heaven and ocean,

Angels of rain and lightning! there are spread  
On the blue surface of thine airy surge,

Like the bright hair uplifted from the head

Of some fierce Mænad, even from the dim verge

Of the horizon to the zenith's height,

The locks of the approaching storm. Thou dirge

Of the dying year, to which this closing night  
Will be the dome of a vast sepulchre,

Vaulted with all thy congregated might

Of vapours, from whose solid atmosphere

Black rain, and fire, and hail, will burst: O hear!

## III

Thou who didst waken from his summer dreams

The blue Mediterranean, where he lay,

Lull'd by the coil of his crystalline streams,



Beside a pumice isle in Baiæ's bay,  
And saw in sleep old palaces and towers  
Quivering within the wave's intenser day,

All overgrown with azure moss, and flowers  
So sweet, the sense faints picturing them!  
Thou  
For whose path the Atlantic's level powers

Cleave themselves into chasms, while far below  
The sea-blooms and the oozy woods which wear  
The sapless foliage of the ocean, know

Thy voice, and suddenly grow grey with fear  
And tremble and despoil themselves: O hear!

## IV

If I were a dead leaf thou mightest bear;  
If I were a swift cloud to fly with thee;  
A wave to pant beneath thy power, and share

The impulse of thy strength, only less free  
Than thou, O uncontrollable! if even  
I were as in my boyhood, and could be

The comrade of thy wanderings over heaven,  
As then, when to outstrip thy skiey speed  
Scarce seem'd a vision—I would ne'er have  
striven



As thus with thee in prayer in my sore need.  
O! lift me as a wave, a leaf, a cloud!

I fall upon the thorns of life! I bleed!

A heavy weight of hours has chain'd and bow'd  
One too like thee—tameless, and swift, and  
proud.

## v

Make me thy lyre, even as the forest is:

What if my leaves are falling like its own?  
The tumult of thy mighty harmonies

Will take from both a deep autumnal tone,  
Sweet though in sadness. Be thou, Spirit fierce,  
My spirit! Be thou me, impetuous one!

Drive my dead thoughts over the universe,  
Like wither'd leaves, to quicken a new birth;  
And, by the incantation of this verse,

Scatter, as from an unextinguish'd hearth  
Ashes and sparks, my words among mankind!  
Be through my lips to unawaken'd earth

The trumpet of a prophecy! O Wind,  
If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY.



ON HIS BEING ARRIVED AT THE AGE OF  
TWENTY-THREE

**H**OW soon hath Time, the subtle thief of  
youth,

Stoln on his wing my three-and-twenti'th year!

My hasting days fly on with full career,

But my late spring no bud or blossom shew'th.

Perhaps my semblance might deceive the truth,

That I to manhood am arriv'd so near;

And inward ripeness doth much less appear,

That some more timely-happy spirits indu'th.

Yet be it less or more, or soon or slow,

It shall be in strictest measure ev'n

To that same lot, however mean or high,

Toward which time leads me and the will of  
Heaven.

All is, if I have grace to use it so,

As ever in my great task-master's eye

JOHN MILTON.

ONE-AND-TWENTY

**L**ONG-EXPECTED one-and-twenty,

Ling'ring year, at length is flown:

Pride and pleasure, pomp and plenty,

Great \* \* \* \* \*, are now your own.

Loosen'd from the minor's tether,

Free to mortgage or to sell,



Wild as wind, and light as feather,  
Bid the sons of thrift farewell.

Call the Betsies, Kates, and Jennies,  
All the names that banish care;  
Lavish of your grandsire's guineas,  
Show the spirit of an heir.

All that prey on vice and folly  
Joy to see their quarry fly:  
There the gamester, light and jolly,  
There the lender, grave and sly.

Wealth, my lad, was made to wander,  
Let it wander as it will;  
Call the jockey, call the pander,  
Bid them come and take their fill.

When the bony blade carouses,  
Pockets full, and spirits high—  
What are acres? What are houses?  
Only dirt, or wet or dry.

Should the guardian friend or mother,  
Tell the woes of wilful waste,  
Scorn their counsel, scorn their pother;—  
You can hang or drown at last!

SAMUEL JOHNSON.



## AN ANCIENT RHYME

**T**HE burden of an ancient rhyme  
Is, "by the forelock seize on Time."  
Time in some corner heard it said;  
Pricking his ears, away he fled;  
And, seeing me upon the road,  
A hearty curse on me bestowed.  
"What if I do the same by thee?  
How wouldst thou like it?" thundered he,  
And, without answer thereupon,  
Seizing *my* forelock . . . it was gone.

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR.

THE LADY WHO OFFERS HER LOOKING-  
GLASS TO VENUS

**V**ENUS, take my votive glass;  
Since I am not what I was,  
What from this day I shall be,  
Venus, let me never see.

MATTHEW PRIOR.

## A MINUET

ON REACHING THE AGE OF FIFTY \*

## I

**O**LD Age, on tiptoe, lays her jewelled hand  
Lightly in mine.—Come, tread a stately  
measure,

\* Reprinted by permission of the publishers, Charles Scribner's Sons, from *Poems*, by George Santayana.



Most gracious partner, nobly posed and bland.

Ours be no boisterous pleasure,  
But smiling conversation, with quick glance  
And memories dancing lightlier than we dance,  
Friends who a thousand joys  
Divide and double, save one joy supreme  
Which many a pang alloys.

Let wanton girls and boys  
Cry over lovers' woes and broken toys.  
Our waking life is sweeter than their dream.

## II

Dame Nature, with unwitting hand,  
Has sparsely strewn the black abyss with lights  
Minute, remote, and numberless. We stand  
Measuring far depths and heights,  
Arched over by a laughing heaven,  
Intangible and never to be scaled.  
If we confess our sins, they are forgiven.  
We triumph, if we know we failed.

## III

Tears that in youth you shed,  
Congealed to pearls, now deck your silvery hair;  
Sighs breathed for loves long dead  
Frosted the glittering atoms of the air  
Into the veils you wear  
Round your soft bosom and most queenly head;  
The shimmer of your gown  
Catches all tints of autumn, and the dew



Of gardens where the damask roses blew;  
The myriad tapers from these arches hung  
    Play on your diamonded crown;  
And stars, whose light angelical caressed  
    Your virgin days,  
Give back in your calm eyes their holier rays.  
    The deep past living in your breast  
    Heaves these half-merry sighs;  
    And the soft accents of your tongue  
    Breathe unrecorded charities.

## IV

Hasten not; the feast will wait.  
This is a master-night without a morrow.  
No chill and haggard dawn, with after-sorrow,  
    Will snuff the spluttering candle out,  
Or blanch the revellers homeward straggling  
    late.

Before the rout  
Wearies or wanes, will come a calmer trance.  
Lulled by the poppiéd fragrance of this bower,  
    We'll cheat the lapsing hour,  
And close our eyes, still smiling, on the dance.

GEORGE SANTAYANA.

## FINIS

**I** STROVE with none, for none was worth  
    my strife.  
Nature I loved and, next to Nature, Art:



I warm'd both hands before the fire of life;  
It sinks, and I am ready to depart.

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR.

## EPITAPH ON HIMSELF

**N**OBLES and heralds, by your leave,  
Here lies what once was Matthew Prior,  
The son of Adam and of Eve;

Can Bourbon or Nassau claim higher?

MATTHEW PRIOR.

## THE CONCLUSION

**E**VEN such is Time, that takes in trust  
Our youth, our joys, our all we have,  
And pays us but with earth and dust;

Who in the dark and silent grave,  
When we have wander'd all our ways,  
Shuts up the story of our days;  
But from this earth, this grave, this dust,  
My God shall raise me up, I trust.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

## ON HIS BLINDNESS

**W**HEN I consider how my light is spent,  
E're half my days, in this dark world  
and wide,

And that one Talent which is death to hide,



Lodg'd with me useless, though my Soul more  
bent  
To serve therewith my Maker, and present  
My true account, least he returning chide,  
Doth God exact day-labour, light deny'd,  
I fondly ask; But patience to prevent  
That murmur, soon replies, God doth not need  
Either man's work or his own gifts, who best  
Bear his milde yoke, they serve him best, his  
State  
Is Kingly. Thousands at his bidding speed  
And post o'er Land and Ocean without rest:  
They also serve who only stand and waite.  
JOHN MILTON.

## HYMN

THE spacious firmament on high,  
With all the blue ethereal sky,  
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,  
Their great Original proclaim.  
Th' unwearied Sun from day to day  
Does his Creator's power display;  
And publishes to every land  
The work of an Almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,  
The Moon takes up the wondrous tale;  
And nightly to the listening Earth  
Repeats the story of her birth:



Whilst all the stars that round her burn,  
And all the planets in their turn,  
Confirm the tidings as they roll,  
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though in solemn silence all  
Move round the dark terrestrial ball;  
What though nor real voice nor sound  
Amidst their radiant orbs be found?  
In Reason's ear they all rejoice,  
And utter forth a glorious voice;  
For ever singing as they shine,  
"The Hand that made us is divine."

JOSEPH ADDISON.

## THE TIGER

**T**IGER! Tiger! burning bright,  
In the forests of the night;  
What immortal hand or eye  
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies  
Burned the fire of thine eyes?  
On what wings dare he aspire?  
What the hand dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, and what art,  
Could twist the sinews of thine heart?  
And when thy heart began to beat,  
What dread hand? and what dread feet?



What the hammer, what the chain?  
In what furnace was thy brain?  
What the anvil? what dread grasp  
Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

When the stars threw down their spears,  
And watered heaven with their tears,  
Did he smile his work to see?  
Did He, who made the Lamb, make thee!

Tiger! Tiger! burning bright,  
In the forests of the night,  
What immortal hand or eye  
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?  
WILLIAM BLAKE.

#### DOVER BEACH

THE sea is calm to-night.  
The tide is full, the moon lies fair  
Upon the straits;—on the French coast the light  
Gleams and is gone; the cliffs of England stand,  
Glimmering and vast, out in the tranquil bay.  
Come to the window, sweet is the night-air!  
Only, from the long line of spray  
Where the sea meets the moon-blanch'd land,  
Listen! you hear the grating roar  
Of pebbles which the waves draw back, and fling,  
At their return, up the high strand,



Begin, and cease, and then again begin,  
With tremulous cadence slow, and bring  
The eternal note of sadness in.

Sophocles long ago  
Heard it on the Ægæan, and it brought  
Into his mind the turbid ebb and flow  
Of human misery; we  
Find also in the sound a thought,  
Hearing it by this distant northern sea.

The Sea of Faith  
Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's  
shore

Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furl'd.

But now I only hear

Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,  
Retreating, to the breath

Of the night-wind, down the vast edges drear  
And naked shingles of the world.

Ah, love, let us be true

To one another! for the world, which seems

To lie before us like a land of dreams

So various, so beautiful, so new,

Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,

Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;

And we are here as on a darkling plain

Swept with confused alarms of struggle and  
flight,

Where ignorant armies clash by night.

MATTHEW ARNOLD.



## A NOISELESS PATIENT SPIDER

A NOISELESS patient spider,  
I mark'd where on a little promontory it  
stood isolated,  
Mark'd how to explore the vacant vast surround-  
ing,  
It launchèd forth filament, filament, filament, out  
of itself,  
Ever unreeling them, ever tirelessly speeding  
them.

And you O my soul where you stand,  
Surrounded, detached, in measureless oceans of  
space,  
Ceaselessly musing, venturing, throwing, seek-  
ing the spheres to connect them,  
Till the bridge you will need be form'd, till the  
ductile anchor hold,  
Till the gossamer thread you fling catch some-  
where, O my soul.

WALT WHITMAN.

## LUCIFER IN STARLIGHT\*

ON a starr'd night Prince Lucifer uprose,  
Tired of his dark dominion swung the fiend  
Above the rolling ball in cloud part screen'd,  
Where sinners hugg'd their spectre of repose.

\*Reprinted by permission of the publishers,  
Charles Scribner's Sons, from *Poems*, by George  
Meredith.



Poor prey to his hot fit of pride were those:  
 And now upon his western wing he lean'd,  
 Now his huge bulk o'er Afric's sands careen'd,  
 Now the black planet shadow'd Arctic snows.  
 Soaring through wider zones that prick'd his  
       scars

With memory of the old revolt from Awe,  
 He reach'd a middle height, and at the stars,  
 Which are the brain of heaven, he look'd, and  
       sank.

Around the ancient track march'd, rank on rank,  
 The army of unalterable law.

GEORGE MEREDITH.

## THE RUBAIYAT OF OMAR KHAYYAM

### XII

**A** BOOK of Verses underneath the Bough,  
 A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread—and  
       Thou

Beside me singing in the Wilderness—  
 Oh, Wilderness were Paradise enow!

### XIII

Some for the Glories of This World; and some  
 Sigh for the Prophet's Paradise to come;

Ah, take the Cash, and let the Credit go,  
 Nor heed the rumble of a distant Drum!



## XIV

Look to the blowing Rose about us—"Lo,  
"Laughing," she says, "into the world I blow,  
"At once the silken tassel of my Purse  
"Tear, and its Treasure on the Garden throw."

## XV

And those who husbanded the Golden grain,  
And those who flung it to the winds like Rain,  
Alike to no such aureate Earth are turn'd  
As, buried once, Men want dug up again.

## XVI

The Worldly Hope men set their Hearts upon  
Turns Ashes—or it prospers; and anon,  
Like Snow upon the Desert's dusty Face,  
Lighting a little hour or two—is gone.

## XVII

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai  
Whose Portals are alternate Night and Day,  
How Sultan after Sultan with his Pomp  
Abode his destined Hour, and went his way.

## XVIII

They say the Lion and the Lizard keep  
The Courts where Jamshyd gloried and drank  
deep:



And Bahram, that great Hunter—the Wild  
 Ass  
 Stamps o'er his Head, but cannot break his  
 Sleep.

XIX

I sometimes think that never blows so red  
 The Rose as where some buried Cæsar bled;  
 That every Hyacinth the Garden wears  
 Dropt in her Lap from some once lovely Head.

XX

And this reviving Herb whose tender Green  
 Fledges the River-Lip on which we lean—  
 Ah, lean upon it lightly! for who knows  
 From what once lovely Lip it springs unseen!

XXI

Ah, my Beloved, fill the Cup that clears  
 To-DAY of past Regrets and future Fears:  
*To-morrow!*—Why, *To-morrow* I may be  
 Myself with Yesterday's Sev'n thousand Years.

XXII

For some we loved, the loveliest and the best  
 That from his Vintage rolling Time hath prest,  
 Have drunk their Cup a Round or two before.  
 And one by one crept silently to rest.



## XXIII

And we, that now make merry in the Room  
They left, and Summer dresses in new bloom,  
Ourselves must we beneath the Couch of  
Earth  
Descend—ourselves to make a Couch—for  
whom?

## LXXI

The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,  
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit  
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,  
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.

## LXXII

And that inverted Bowl they call the Sky,  
Whereunder crawling coop'd we live and die,  
Lift not your hands to *It* for help—for *It*  
As impotently moves as you or I.

## XCIX

Ah Love! could you and I with Him conspire  
To grasp this sorry Scheme of Things entire,  
Would not we shatter it to bits—and then  
Re-mould it nearer to the Heart's Desire!

## C

Yon rising Moon that looks for us again—  
How oft hereafter will she wax and wane;



How oft hereafter rising look for us  
Through this same Garden—and for *one* in vain!

CI

And when like her, oh Saki, you shall pass  
Among the Guests Star-scatter'd on the Grass,  
And in your joyous errand reach the spot  
Where I made One—turn down an empty Glass!  
Translated from the Persian  
by EDWARD FITZGERALD.

CHORUS FROM "THE BACCHAE" \*

*Some Maidens*

**W**ILL they ever come to me, ever again,  
The long long dances,  
On through the dark till the dim stars wane?  
Shall I feel the dew on my throat, and the  
stream  
Of wind in my hair? Shall our white feet  
gleam  
In the dim expanses?  
Oh, feet of a fawn to the greenwood fled,  
Alone in the grass and the loveliness;  
Leap of the hunted, no more in dread,  
Beyond the snares and the deadly press:

\* Reprinted, by permission of the publishers, Longmans, Green and Co., and George Allan and Unwin, Ltd., from *The Bacchae of Euripides*, translated by Gilbert Murray.



Yet a voice still in the distance sounds,  
A voice and a fear and a haste of hounds;  
O wildly labouring, fiercely fleet,  
Onward yet by river and glen . . .  
Is it joy or terror, ye storm-swift feet? . . .  
To the dear lone lands untroubled of men,  
Where no voice sounds, and amid the shadowy  
green  
The little things of the woodland live unseen.

What else is Wisdom? What of man's endeavour  
Or God's high grace, so lovely and so great?  
To stand from fear set free, to breathe and  
wait;  
To hold a hand uplifted over Hate;  
And shall not Loveliness be loved for ever?

*Others*

O Strength of God, slow art thou and still,  
Yet fairest never!  
On them that worship the Ruthless Will,  
On them that dream, doth His judgment wait.  
Dreams of the proud man, making great  
And greater ever,  
Things which are not of God. In wide  
And devious coverts, hunter-wise,  
He coucheth Time's unhasting stride,  
Following, following, him whose eyes  
Look not to Heaven. For all is vain,  
The pulse of the heart, the plot of the brain,



That striveth beyond the laws that live.  
 And is thy Faith so much to give,  
 Is it so hard a thing to see,  
 That the Spirit of God, whate'er it be,  
 The Law that abides and changes not, ages long,  
 The Eternal and Nature-born—these things be  
                   strong?

What else is Wisdom? What of man's endeavour  
                   our  
 Or God's high grace so lovely and so great?  
 To stand from fear set free, to breathe and  
                   wait;  
 To hold a hand uplifted over Hate;  
 And shall not Loveliness be loved for ever?

*Leader*

Happy he, on the weary sea  
 Who hath fled the tempest and won the haven.  
 Happy whoso hath risen, free,  
 About his striving. For strangely graven  
 Is the orb of life, that one and another  
 In gold and power may outpass his brother.  
 And men in their millions float and flow  
 And seethe with a million hopes as leaven;  
 And they win their Will, or they miss their  
                   Will,  
 And the hopes are dead or are pined for still;  
 But whoe'er can know,



As the long days go,  
That To Live is happy, hath found his Heaven!  
From "The Bacchae" of  
EURIPIDES; translated  
from the Greek by GIL-  
BERT MURRAY.

## AN EPITAPH

**O** MORTAL folk, you may behold and see  
How I lie here, sometime a mighty knight;  
The end of joy and all prosperitee  
Is death at last, thorough his course and might;  
After the day there cometh the dark night,  
For though the daye be never so long,  
At last the bells ringeth to evensong.  
STEPHEN HAWES.